

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

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An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

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The Law of the Harvest

By Dr. R. P. (Bob) Shuler, Retired,
Pastor for 33 Years of Trinity Methodist Church, Los Angeles,
Editor of "The Methodist Challenge"

"Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same."—Job 4:8.

This statement came sarcastically from the lips of one of Job's false friends who had arrived to comfort him in the midst of his trials and misfortunes. But it contains far more than sarcasm. It is the Old Testament parallel to the New Testament version of the same truth, "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." It is a law of God thus stated. It is as true as the law of gravity or the law of centrifugal force.



Dr. Bob Shuler

I have chosen this text because of its opening words, "as I have seen." Here is a fact of observation and experience. Here is a truth with better backing than the test tube, than the laboratory, than the findings of scientific research. It is a truth of the cobblestones. It belongs to the fields and highways and marts of trade. You will find its verification everywhere. I doubt if anybody could look back over the years and fail to discover a telling illustration. All you have to do is look about you, remember your next-door neighbors, recall your earlier companions, possibly bring back with sorrow what happened in your own home.

This truth would be truth had no Bible been written. Even if God had not spoken to man by way of revelation and warned him in a Holy Book, this tremendous

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Second Prize Winner in Third Annual \$1,000 Sword Evangelistic Sermon Contest

God's Last Call

by Evangelist Jim Mercer, D.D.

1222 West Fiftieth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota

"He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."—Prov. 29:1.

This solemn text leaps out from the pages of God's Word with shocking force. It is one of those extreme texts one fears to preach and yet fears more not to preach. This is God's last, fearful call—the call of doom! The call of destruction!

This text tells us that, if a person refuses to heed the tender pleadings of the Holy Spirit and continually rejects the Son of God, he will suddenly die without mercy. There will be no hope beyond the grave.

I know this text is true, first, because it is in the Bible, and,

secondly, because I've seen it with my own eyes.

I have preached this text in revival crusades, and, while great numbers turned to God, some have gone out refusing to heed the warning and have been killed on the way home.

Recently in a large union campaign in the West, a man heard me give this message of warning on the closing night. He sat on the front seat and was visibly moved. A close friend, seeing him in tears, asked him if he would come with him to the front to accept Christ as his Saviour. He would not. Said he, "Not tonight. Pray for me." In less than twelve hours, that man was killed in a train wreck. But he had been "reproved" more than once. God had spoken to him many times. It is safe to say that God has spoken



Evangelist Jim Mercer

to you many times. God spoke to me many times before I was converted. I turned Him down, and, as
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THE BIBLE—

Is It an Evolution or an Inspiration?

By Dr. W. B. Riley
Late Pastor, First Baptist Church, Minneapolis,
Founder, Northwestern Schools

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God."—II Tim. 3:16.

The supreme question for the 20th Century Christian is this: "The Bible, is it an evolution or an inspiration?" Since this question is fundamental in my profession, and its answer affects the very life of Christianity itself, I claim at once an inalienable right and a comparative fitness for its discussion.

"New" theologians are now writing books on "The Religion of a Mature Mind," "The Mature Man's Difficulties with His Bible," etc., and it may be conceded by them that forty consecutive years of Bible study on the part of even a conservative ought to result in some mature opinions, and certainly since the very question is basal to conservatism, the orthodox have a right to discuss it.

The inspiration of the Bible is, of course, "the traditional view." That too common teacher-custom of speaking contemptuously of "the traditional view" is as unwarranted as superficial. Dr. John Urquhart said, "The Copernican theory of the motions of the heavenly bodies has become the traditional view." Is it any the less true on that account? "That it is the traditional view may be regarded on the contrary as something in its favor. It could hardly have endured so long, under the close and continued inspection of modern science, unless it had much to support it." This traditional view of the Scriptures has been the subject of the closest scrutiny, of the most careful investigation, of the most continuous and even vicious assault; and yet it stands as a veritable Gibraltar against

which "modernism" marshals its increasing forces to little avail.

In order to answer this question, however, we must consider both the inspirational and evolutionary claims.

THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION

When Charles Darwin first exploited the modern theory of evolution, men little dreamed the lengths to which his hypothesis would be pushed. It is very doubtful if it was supposed even by him to have reference to anything more than the existence and development of life.

Science is specific and limited; philosophy, on the contrary, is as indefinite and unlimited as its author cares to make it.

No less an authority than Mark Hopkins, the great educator, said, "Men who are most reliable in observing facts are often least so in drawing inferences."

As an investigator, Darwin may be called a scientist; as a philosopher, he was most unscientific.

The Theory of Evolution Itself Is an Assumption, Not a Science

It is impossible for one to read



Dr. W. B. Riley

the Standard Dictionary definition of science—"knowledge gained and verified by exact observation and correct thinking, especially as made clear, formulated and arranged in a rational system," and Darwin's writings, without realizing the remote remove of the one from the other. For instance, over 800 times Darwin says, "We may well suppose." How strange to call an unlimited series of suppositions a science! Certainly Louis Pasteur had occasion for his statement, "Theories come into our laboratory by the bushel. When they have served their purpose they are thrown out of the win-

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Learn to Pray!

PRAYER ASKING and RECEIVING

by Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor

This book has been for 12 years America's best seller on prayer. 21 Chapters of blessing. See that others read and are blessed. GET WHAT YOU NEED FROM A PRAYER-HEARING GOD!

CHAPTER IV

The Answer to Prayer Is Receiving

"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him...."—I John 3:22.

"...if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?"—Matt. 7:9, 10.

In the preceding chapter I showed that prayer is asking. Prayer is not adoration, it is not meditation, it is not even praise and thanksgiving. Prayer is not just spiritual exercise. No, prayer is asking. There ought to be adoration and meditation and thanksgiving, to be sure, but these are not prayer; prayer is asking. So we are told, "Ye have not because ye ask not" (James 4:2). We are promised, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt. 7:7). Many, many, Scriptures show that prayer, in the Bible sense, is asking God definitely for something.

Now there is another side to that truth. If prayer is asking, then the answer to prayer must be receiving.

ing. It is the will of our loving heavenly Father that we should be able to come to Him day by day, ask what we want, and receive it.

Preachers have a way, when faith grows dim and weak, of making alibis for the fruitlessness of their prayers. For example, preachers sometimes say, "God answers prayer three ways. He may say, 'Yes' or He may say, 'No' or He may say, 'Wait awhile.'"

Of course that statement is intended to mean that a Christian ought to be content for the will of God to be done and to be satisfied with anything God gives. But actually, it teaches exactly the opposite of what the Bible teaches
(Continued on page 5)

LOVE, COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE

for

Christian Youth

by William W. Orr, D.D.

Pastor, Hope Union Church,
Rosemead, California

(SECOND ARTICLE IN SERIES)

Let's Define Love—Shall We?

You can look in the dictionary yourself and find that "love is a feeling of strong personal attachment, strong liking, fondness, tender and passionate affection for one of the opposite sex," etc. All of which is no doubt true, but we could never be satisfied with just this definition.

You see, we must emphasize here that love came from God. In fact, in a very mysterious and wonderful way God Himself is love (I John 4:7, 8). So the only one really capable of defining love is God. And any definition which leaves God out isn't really the genuine article.

The world defines love very differently (I John 2:15-17). Love to many means merely the gratification of sensuous desire or physical pleasure. The average untaught young person conceives of love in terms of passionate kisses, promiscuous fondling or perhaps even stolen affection slightly on the unholy side. The reason is that some have received their education about love from the lurid love magazines or the even more sensational moving pictures. This isn't really love at all... mostly it's just plain physical lust.

You'll never understand the true character of love until you see that God places our love alongside His. For instance, in one place He points out that as He so loved us, we ought to love one another (I John 4:11). And in another place, an entire chapter is devoted to a delineation of love's sterling qualities (I Cor. 13). Yet the greatest unveiling of love's true character is to be found in the person of Christ Himself. He is love incarnate. His life is the personification of all that love is (I John 4:10).

This may just be Greek to you until you nail down firmly in your thinking that the love we're talking about is high, noble, unselfish, and self sacrificing. Genuine love is always clean love. It's pure, generous, long-suffering, faithful. You can no more divorce real love from these qualities than teach mud turtles to fly. And your Christian life just won't work on any other principle. It's like trying to run your car on catsup

or maple syrup. It wasn't made for that.

You can easily see that true love has lofty standards. But let me assure you that love like this brings millions of dividends in true pleasure and enduring satisfaction, and some fun too (Prov. 5:18; Song of Sol. 1:2).

Love Is Quite Normal

Don't ever be afraid of love for it's quite normal. I don't want you to think for a moment that because Christian love has an honest backbone you can't attain to it. Believe me, it's perfectly right, proper and praiseworthy to like many friends, to love a particular someone, to marry, to have a dozen children, and to live happily (or at least merrily) ever after.

You see, God has bound up the matter of making the world go round with the force we call love. Love and procreation, love and life go hand in hand simply because God has so willed it. We must love because we're made that way. Our lives are not complete until we do. Our physical mechanism, our mental health, our spiritual well-being are all tied into this matter of love. You don't have to look very far to find people who are hopelessly neurotic simply because they're starved for affection.

On the other hand, while we're affirming the normality of love, let us add that there's real danger in the abuse of this God-given force. When love gets out of hand or jumps its track, then there's mighty serious trouble to pay.

The same thing may be said of other things in life. For instance, the body is made for food, and eating is a most delightful and nourishing exercise. But overeating, or bad gastronomic habits could bring a chain of reactions that might even cost one's life.

Exercise, too, is good. But over-exertion could irreparably damage the body's muscular structure. Our eyes are unbelievably strong but don't start staring at the sun with them. Our voices can stand a lot of abuse but screaming to high heaven might ruin them forever. You see, all of life's forces have boundaries of good sense.

Love, too, is quite normal, useful and a source of unparalleled

delight within the boundaries a loving God has made. But don't let love get out of hand and jump the boundaries. God wants us to enjoy life to the full. But isn't it the part of true wisdom to follow God's rules? Especially when the rules are designed for our best good?

Have Many Friends

Don't misunderstand me. We don't mean many intimate, close friends; that's an impossibility. In life there can only be one who is "the" friend. Rather, what we mean is to let your life be enriched with many friends of the ordinary garden variety (Prov. 17:17). You know, school chums, church pals, friends on the job. It's good advice to not get too serious with any one friend until about a score of years has rolled by. Then you're beginning to get some good sense.

Now how to make friends? Well, that isn't easy. An old book puts it to have friends one must show himself friendly (Prov. 18:24). Which means you've got to encourage friendships. You must think of the things which concern their lives, work for their welfare, put your interests last. But there are rich rewards for this. True friends constitute some of the real riches of life.

Boys and girls were made for each other. It's a fine thing to encourage parties, socials, sings, hikes, picnics. Enter into these things with all your heart. Have fun with friends. God is never desirous that we should shut ourselves up as in a monastery. We're not to be hermits or recluses. It's as natural as breathing to know and like many friends. Of course, always in the right way.

Too many today have lost the zest of good homemade fun with friends. There's too much dependence upon purely artificial means of amusement. We need to learn that the world is literally packed to the edges with things to discover and enjoy. And the best way to discover that is with friends.

Then, too, having many friends presents a thrilling opportunity. You can introduce them to Friend Jesus. You'll find some in your circle of acquaintances that do not know Christ in a personal, living way. They think that Christ is somehow boxed up in a church or cathedral. They believe that Christians are rather strange people who dress queerly or wear their collars backwards. What they need to know is that Christ wants to be a Friend to them (John 15:13), the Best Friend they will ever have. There's your opportunity. Take it.

But Never Be Cheap

We've just finished saying that it's a super-duper idea to have oodles of friends and we mean that. But just suffer this word of caution. Be friendly but don't be common. Have a real affection for your pals but never get too familiar with them. Don't fall into the habit of degrading your companionships by taking undue liberties. Don't let your friendships be cheapened by careless familiarity.

All of us have been called on to witness fellows and girls who literally pawed over each other's bodies. When they came to a party they both had to sit on the same chair, two deep. At the beach they made an unholy spectacle of themselves. In any social event you could always count on their mooning and smooching around one another. This sort of thing is nauseating to the core. And it's as cheap as mud.

Down deep in everyone's heart there's utter disgust for the cheap boy and more for the cheap girl. And young men, either consciously or unconsciously, vow solemnly that this is the sort of girl they don't want to marry. Young women, too, who are true to their finer instincts, highly resolve that if the "pawing Romeo" were to ask them to say, "yes," their answer would be, "I should say not."

Deeper than all this is the sanctity of the human body. Very definitely the body of the Christian does not belong to himself (I Cor. 6:19, 20). Rather it is the temple of God, the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 3:16). We are merely custodians entrusted with the task of keeping it pure and clean, and a

THE EDITOR'S Notes

by John R. Rice

Hurry Those Subscriptions!

It will comfort me and encourage me very much if you can send in the big subscription coupon in this issue with six names for subscriptions. That is a big bargain, six yearly subscriptions for \$10, and you may have either two copies of the paper-bound book on *Prayer* or one copy of the clothbound book on *Prayer (Prayer—Asking and Receiving, 328 pages)*. I make this request in Jesus' name. Please open your heart prayerfully and see if it will not please Him for you to send the subscriptions at once. Remember that this whole work is a missionary work and we simply want you to help us get out the Gospel to stimulate preachers, to revive Christians and to make soul winners and win souls. I believe that, except in rare cases where people simply cannot send subscriptions or where they are not interested in the defense of the faith and in soul winning, to neglect the opportunity would be a sin. Please do not fail the Lord Jesus and us. We look for your subscriptions right away. Address the Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois, and send as many as you can.

Those Missionary Subscriptions

A missionary just home from Japan tells me of hundreds of Japanese pastors who have had very little contact with fundamental Christian literature. They do not have the prejudice and the deliberate antagonism to fundamental truth which many modernists in America have. Could we send them *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, the missionary asked? I told him we would pray for more funds.

We still need funds to pay for subscriptions to more than 300 priests of the Philippine Independent Church who asked for *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* and other Christian literature. Will you help? We are still struggling to pay for subscriptions to thousands of other preachers who have already received *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* gladly and read it gratefully. We have continual requests from national workers in India, in Africa, in the Philippine Islands and elsewhere, who can read English and want *THE SWORD* but are unable to subscribe. Please help, if you can, with a gift to the Sword Ministers and Missionary Subscription Fund. What a wonderful place for somebody to invest several thousand dollars.

Will You Pray Daily for the Editor?

The tremendous work of the Sword of the Lord Foundation is too heavy a load for any man without supernatural aid. Will you pray that the editor may be continually led of the Spirit and may be strengthened for this work? I leave Saturday for Jacksonville, Florida, and then most of the time through seven Sundays I will be away from home. Yet heavy correspondence and editorial work must be carried on even though I speak. I humbly beg readers to lift us up in prayer.

fit habitation for the Divine presence. You just can't be careless and cheap when you know this.

Now don't think this equals missing all the fun. The real truth is that the mooning, pawing, smooching, individual doesn't enjoy anything. He who loves by the braille system soon finds life tasteless and tiring. On the other hand, the girl who demands a hands-off attitude, and the fellow who respects the girl's wishes find life purposeful and worth while. Friends made on this basis endure through life. Cheap friends are just not worth having.

Have a look at the way in which the Lord Jesus made and kept friends (John 15:13). His friendships are patterns for ours. Let us conduct our friendships so as to merit His approval... shall we?

(From 32-page pamphlet, price 25c. Published by Van Kampen Press. Used by permission.)

Book Reviews

BOOK REVIEWS IN THIS COLUMN WILL USUALLY BE BY JUDGES OF THE SWORD BOOK CLUB AND WILL BE SIGNED.

AMAZING GRACE by Dr. L. E. Barton. Thirteen expository sermons on the book of Ephesians.

Dr. Barton is a cultured gentleman, a gifted writer. He was for many years a parliamentarian for the Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. Barton has rich memories, warm illustrations. He is thoroughly evangelical in interpretation of the Scriptures. We feel some lack in that there is a good discussion of the local congregation, a lack of understanding on "the church which is his body." However, the book is warm and helpful. 213 pages, Christopher Publishing House, \$2.75.

JOHN R. RICE

HANDBOOK OF CHRISTIAN ETIQUETTE, (tenth edition, revised 1954) by Mrs. W. B. Riley, 50 Willow Street, Minneapolis 3, Minnesota. \$1.95.

Revised again to try and meet the increasing social and moral problems of our young people—wrong dating, promiscuous petting, hasty marriages, and inadequate home life. Mrs. Riley says, "This is in addition, of course, to the varied phases of Christian conduct and courtesy emphasized in previous editions. Extensively used in classroom work in Christian schools and colleges. This volume compresses into brief form what others have taken large volumes to voice; yet it leaves for the Christian no essential phase of this subject untouched."

ALL ABOUT CHRISTIAN GIVING, by Dr. John R. Rice, *Sword of the Lord* Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois. 174 pages, cloth binding—\$1.95, paper binding—\$1.00.

This is a book that had to be written. The denominational bosses and the high church dictators, ecclesiastical politicians, and aspiring climbers in the denominational machines will froth at their mouths and gnash their teeth, but they cannot answer the clear-cut, scriptural position which one of America's great evangelists sets forth positively and so fairly in this excellent work.

This is a book that will shatter the chains which selfish ecclesiastics have forged to bind and enslave some of the dearest saints of God. The plan of giving outlined here is scriptural, and any Christian who follows it will find a new joy in his giving. I commend this book to every layman, and I commend the author to the prayers of all God's people. This book will make him the victim of lies, slander, innuendo, and misrepresentation on the part of the people mentioned in the first paragraph above.

DR. BOB JONES, JR.

WHO ARE THE FALSE PROPHETS? Dr. Oswald J. Smith. 44 pages, 50c. Third Edition. This is a pocket-size handbook of eight chapters dealing with several false cults—who they are and what they (Continued on page 4)

What Wonderful Messages!

I believe the thoughtful reader will be impressed with the tremendous message by the late W. B. Riley on "The Bible—Evolution or Inspiration?" Then the sermon by Dr. Bob Shuler is tremendous, and the prize-winning sermon by Evangelist Jim Mercer on "God's Last Call" is something to write home about. We keep begging God to help us and yet we are continually amazed at the quantity of material He gives for *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. I believe that no Christian magazine in the world prints so much material of permanent value by the strongest soul winners as that published by *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. Be sure to take advantage of this privilege.

By the way, thousands of readers will find their subscriptions expiring soon. Better renew at once for three years of \$5 and get a free copy of the big 328-page book on *Prayer* in the special paper cover. We will simply add your subscription on to the present expiration date. You will save money and trouble. Thank you!



AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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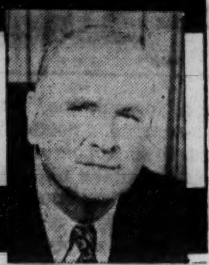
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Dr. Bob Jones SAYS:



We tell our students that wisdom is knowing how to use knowledge so as to meet successfully the emergencies of life. People can acquire knowledge, but they have to ask God for wisdom. We pray constantly that God will give us wisdom in all the planning for Bob Jones University. So far He has guided in a wonderful way. We are having our greatest year spiritually as well as in every other way. From the time school closed the first of last June until our students returned after the Christmas holidays, our ministerial students led to the Lord Jesus Christ about 28,000 people, and this is just a partial report. There have been many people saved through the influence of students who are not studying for the ministry.

My son, Bob, Jr., the president of the University, and other executives here and I have felt for some time that the Lord has called us to expand the University plant. A few days ago we called a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, and Bob, Jr., outlined a plan of expansion which will cost approximately \$1,500,000. We must have more faculty housing, and we must have another dormitory. We need a fine arts building, and we need several other very important additions to our plant. It will cost \$1,500,000 to carry out this building program. We are starting in on improvements in the next few months, and we believe that God is going to see this plan through. We know that you Christian people are called upon to help many causes. We do not ask you to invest all the money God has given you in the work of Bob Jones University, but *Bob Jones University on the basis of the work it has done in the past twenty-eight years and is doing now and is planning to do in the future is entitled to a share in the money you Bible-believing Christians are investing in the Lord's work.*

We are asking you Christians to join us in daily, earnest prayer that God may send this money in for this building program. We have no agents in the field raising money. We are not paying people to come around and ask you for money. We are telling you about our needs. We are asking God to speak to you so you will help us with this work. The Lord has been leading us and has blessed us. The devil has been against us ever since the school started, but every hand ever lifted against the school has been helpless to hurt this institution. God is in Bob Jones University. He called the school into existence to do a certain kind of work. We have endeavored to be faithful to the trust committed to us, and we are asking you to help us. Some of you can send some money monthly, and some of you some quarterly. Some of you can send a donation now and then send more next year. *We are pleading for God's work.* Remember, we are asking you to help us expand the work of Bob Jones University so we can train more leaders and train them more effectively to do a better job for the Lord Jesus Christ. Bob Jones University has as high academic standards in the field of its emphasis as any school in the United States, but Bob Jones University is a base of evangelical Christian testimony. It teaches its students to win to Jesus Christ and endeavors to exalt

you know our address...

The Sword of the Lord
214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Ill.
so, if you move, be sure to let us know where you are by sending us your old and new addresses (including zone number) five weeks before you make the change. The Post Office will not forward papers unless you send postage.

Jesus Christ in everything. Now, if you believe in that kind of a program, let us hear from you. Thank you and God bless you.

BOB JONES, FOUNDER
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY
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(Advertisement)

Who's Who in Your Church?

Who are the members of your church? Do you have a church directory or a mimeographed list of their names and addresses? If so, you could do them a good turn—and us—by sending us your church directory. We will send sample copies of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, absolutely free and without obligation, just to get acquainted with them. We won't use your name, of course. And thank you very much!

Please Mention
THE SWORD OF THE LORD
When Answering Advertisements

Souls Saved Through The Sword of the Lord

"... he that winneth souls is wise."—Prov. 11:30.

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever."
—Dan. 12:3.

By Evangelist Robert L. Sumner

There is a distinction, an honor in winning souls to Jesus Christ that is higher than anything else in the world! It is a greater honor, in our Lord's sight, for a church to lead its denomination in souls won to Christ than to lead in offerings, new members, average attendance, or anything else. The distinction is higher, by heavenly standards, for a man to be a soul winner than to be chairman of his church deacon board or be appointed to some high office in his denomination. God repeatedly exalts the soul winner in the Bible. It is the soul winner God calls wise! It is the soul winner who will shine eternally as the brightness of the firmament! It is the soul winner who has fullness of joy here and hereafter! Soul winning is the greatest thing, the most important thing in the world!

In the light of these truths, then, a soul-winning paper is a distinctive paper, a paper of special honor and blessing in the sight of God. And THE SWORD OF THE LORD is that kind of a paper! It is a distinctively blessed paper in showing sinners the way of conversion and pressing upon them the urgency. And THE SWORD OF THE LORD is of an immediate decision. Eighty souls report that they have been saved through reading THE SWORD OF THE LORD during 1954. A total of 607 people claim to have found Christ through the combined influence of the SWORD and the books and pamphlets the Sword distributed in 1954!

Do you know of any other publication in print which results in an average of one and one half people saved every week of the year? And that besides having part in the salvation of hundreds more? THE SWORD OF THE LORD is a blessed, soul-winning paper!

SWORD Sent to 18 Homes, 7 Already Saved, 5 Backsliders Restored, Others Interested

Let me give you a sample of the ministry of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. A few weeks ago a friend who lives in a small upstate New York community wrote to give us a report concerning 18 subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD which she had ordered for 18 different homes where there were 33 people, not including children. Of that number she had classified them: 1, a soldier who is a Christian; 4 carnal Christians; 1, a recent convert of 2 months; and 27, "just plain sinners!"

Out of these 18 subscriptions she now reports with rejoicing that 7 have been saved, including her 80-year-old grandmother, 5 have been restored into fellowship with the Lord, 2 are very interested in God's plan of salvation and have been asking many questions, 6 she has not had recent contact with and so does not know the results, and 7 she lists as needing much prayer from the problem of the unequal yoke.

According to the special sub-

scription rates now in effect, 18 subscriptions would cost but \$30! Seven souls won from 18 subscriptions would be less than \$4.30 cost per person. Even at the regular subscription rate of \$2.50 yearly, the cost per soul saved would have only been a little over \$6.40 per person! What a wonderful and inexpensive way to win souls to Christ!

Sends Brother SWORD, He and Wife Saved!

Recently we received a good letter from a lady in Muskegon, Michigan, concerning some subscriptions for her friends. At the bottom she added this postscript: "One of my brothers to whom I had THE SWORD sent has turned to Christ, he and his wife, and have already been baptized. Not of this list of names but of a later list, and though I do not know all about it, my mother wrote me the news recently. But... I'm sure they were influenced by THE SWORD for to my knowledge this brother had never been in church..."

"As for myself I always read THE SWORD and agree with its contents."

Someone Sent SWORD, Now Saved!

About the same time we received the above letter one came from a lady in Newark, New Jersey, saying, in part, "Some one sent me a subscription about two years ago and since then I have been saved. Your paper had a great deal to do with the greatest event in my life. Since that day and every day now I find blessings from it, as THE SWORD OF THE LORD is the only paper I receive. I really haven't time for any other." Someone, apparently she doesn't even know who, cared enough for her soul to invest a few dollars in a subscription that resulted in her conversion from sin to salvation!

You Do This

Are you concerned enough about your lost loved ones to do three things? First, make a list of everyone you know personally, that you are concerned about, who is unsaved. Second, send us the names and addresses plainly written of these unsaved loved ones requesting that they receive THE SWORD OF THE LORD for one year, enclosing \$5 for each 3 subscriptions requested. Third, keep a list of all those for whom you are subscribing some place in your home where it will come to your attention continually and pray daily for their conversion. *Something will surely happen!*

We'll Do This

For each group of 3 yearly subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD which you send us with \$5 we will send you one of the paper bound copies of Dr. Rice's popular book, *Prayer—Asking and Receiving*.

Sword Books in the Philippines

Readers of THE SWORD OF THE LORD will remember that a year or so ago we agreed to furnish thousands of dollars worth of free literature for the Philippines Independent Church, to be distributed by the Orient Crusades.

Now comes a letter from Rev. Ellsworth Culver, the executive director of Orient Crusades, dated January 17. Brother Culver says: "Dear Dr. Rice:

"I regret very much that it was impossible for me to visit Wheaton during my recent trip to the East Coast. At present we are in the midst of our preparation of returning to the Philippines for another term of service, and are sailing on February 10 from San Francisco on board the PRESIDENT VAN BUREN.

"We are very happy to inform you that all of the books that you donated to the people and the priests of the Philippine Independent Church have been carefully distributed. Many of these books have been individually and personally given out. Others were sent through the mail. But all of the 7,000 books that we received from you and others have been distributed and we are so thankful that they are now in the hands of these hungry men, and we trust that God will use this literature in bringing these men to a saving knowledge of Christ."

Thank God that these thousands

ing, absolutely free. We will also give one of the paper bound books for each three-year subscription and \$5 sent in.

When you send us 6 yearly subscriptions to THE SWORD or 2 three-year subscriptions and \$10, we will give you your choice of receiving free one clothbound copy of Dr. Rice's book, *Prayer—Asking and Receiving*, or two paper bound copies. Of course, you must send 50c extra for each subscription to THE SWORD going into Canada or a foreign country because of the extra mailing charges we must pay.

Offer Not Limited to Unsaved

But this offer of the special low bargain rate for THE SWORD OF THE LORD and the offer of the free copies of *Prayer* is not limited to subscriptions for unsaved people. For a limited time you may subscribe for anyone, anywhere according to the terms in the two previous paragraphs. This is a bargain rate and a bargain offer which will soon close.

By subscribing immediately, those for whom you subscribe will receive the last two-thirds of the (Continued on page 8)

of books and pamphlets have been distributed to the priests of this Philippine Independent Church. We gave a good number of cloth-bound books to each priest at a total cost of thousands of dollars. Brother Culver tells us that these have already been distributed, as designated. God will give the increase.

He tells us further that there is a good deal of unrest in that Philippine Independent Church. Catholics are trying to take it over. Unitarians are also trying to get control. Then the Nationalist influence makes many of the priests suspicious of anyone who is a foreigner. We should pray for those who work among the priests and people of the Philippine Independent Church. But thank God they have this literature, given with love and prayers, and at the cost of a good deal of sacrifice by some people.

Also at the request of the presiding bishop, we sent THE SWORD OF THE LORD to each of these priests, some 300 of them, as we were told, and thus we continue to teach the Word of God and to turn people toward Christ and the Bible. Will you pray for this literature now in the hands of independent Filipino priests who have broken away from the Catholic church, and for the people to whom they minister? And pray that God will use the literature which we sent to His own glory and to the salvation of multitudes of souls.

Have you recently sent an offering for the Sword Free Literature Fund? The demands are heavy, far more than we can meet. The work goes only as fast as God's people send the means. Books and pamphlets are being distributed around the world, and the soul-winning tract, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" is printed in more than twenty languages.

Pray about it and make a check or money order payable to the Sword of the Lord. Address your letter to the Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois, and designate the gift to Sword Free Literature Fund, if God so leads.

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Introducing

Evangelist Tom Landers . . .

Tom Landers, Box 6111 Seminary Hill Station, Fort Worth, Texas, was graduated from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary January 14, and is entering the field of evangelism.



Evangelist Tom Landers

Mr. Landers is a native of North Little Rock, Arkansas, and has a B.A. degree from Ouachita Baptist College. He has served as organist and choir director at the First Baptist Church, North Little Rock; Associate Pastor and Minister of Music of Central Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas; and Associate Pastor and Minister of Music of First Church, Camden, Arkansas, where he produced the popular broadcast, "The Gospel Hour" on KAMD. His radio ministry has recently been extended to millions through the "March Against Time" broadcast. He was a pioneer in the Arkansas Youth Revival Movement, and received pastoral experience at the Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, and the Bolivar Baptist Church, Bolivar, Texas.

During college and seminary years, he has been greatly used of God to present the claims of Christ to young and old in city-wide rallies, revivals, civic clubs, high school and college campuses, and churches across the nation. Over 4,000 decisions were recorded in 30 evangelistic campaigns during 1954 and 1955.

WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

EVANGELIST DAN VESTAL, Seminary Hill, Fort Worth, Texas, recently closed a successful campaign at Glendale Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, with 31 additions in 8 days—19 of these were conversions—and many other decisions for Christ were made. Rev. W. R. Taylor is pastor of this growing church, which has just completed an educational building which will take care of 500 or more in Sunday School.

In eight days at Camelback Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona, with **EVANGELIST DEL FEHSENFELD** (4521 Jarboe, Kansas City, Missouri) as the evangelist, there were 25 professions of faith, 33 dedications and 2 others added to the church. The pastor is Rev. J. H. Clifton.

EVANGELIST TOM FAIR (3431 S. E. 36th Avenue, Portland 2, Oregon,) reports on his revival ministry for 1954. Though a serious operation prevented his having as many meetings as he usually holds in a year, yet God gave 1,850 "decisions for Christ" during the year. We suppose this total includes all who came forward—rededications, conversions, those joining local churches, etc. The Fair Team consists of Mrs. Fair, pianist; Rev. Demcy Mylar and his wife as musicians.

Rev. Emory Sample of Bible Baptist Church, Des Moines, Iowa, writes: "We praise God for the ministry of **EVANGELIST RALPH M. DAVIDSON** (Coffeyville, Kansas). He was with us January 2-16. The Lord used him very definitely to strengthen our testimony here in Des Moines. First-time decisions for Christ, backsliders restored, lives dedicated and rededicated made us rejoice, but the enlarged vision of the church was most encouraging. Also a number came for baptism and church membership."

EVANGELIST FREDDIE GAGE of Houston, Texas, and gospel singer Jimmy Snellen of Dallas, led the South Side Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in a revival December 26-January 2. The pastor, Dr. Loren J. Belt reports: "50 additions to the church; 35 for baptism; 16 by letters. Also, we had 88 rededications and 50 family altars. Another great victory was when 40 young people quit the dance." The pastor tells that in spite of the greatest snow storm in Oklahoma City's history, the crowds were good. The church

voted to ask the team back at a future date.

Twelve decisions for Christ were recorded at Church of God, Churchtown, Pennsylvania, when **EVANGELIST JOE MILLER**, (Camp Hill, Pennsylvania) led the church in a one-week meeting December 26-January 2. This is a return engagement for our brother, who has a host of friends in that community. The pastor, Rev. C. E. Miller, heartily commends Brother Miller.

There were over thirty decisions for Christ in a week of meetings with Rev. Art Wilson and the Baptist Tabernacle of Wichita, Kansas. **DOUGLAS WINN** of Greensboro, North Carolina, was the evangelist and Jimmy Rice of Fort Worth, Texas, the singer. Among the converts was a woman from whom the judge had taken her children saying she was unfit to be a mother to them. One night three men, including a soldier in the air force, were saved. They declared they wanted to be baptized that very night and they came out of the baptism praising God! There were over 700 in Sunday School, the evangelist reports. A tent campaign is planned in the summer with the same evangelistic team.

Dr. Torrey M. Johnson, (3717 W. Wrightwood Ave., Chicago) beloved international evangelist, announces a full schedule of campaigns and conferences for 1955. The itinerary will take him across the continent seven or eight times in the months that lie ahead.

Dr. Johnson's schedule from March until Labor Day include . . .

March 6 - March 13
Clinton Hill Baptist Church, Rev. Sidney Larson, Pastor, Newark, New Jersey
March 14 - March 20
Bible and Missionary Alliance Church, Rev. Kenneth C. Fraser, Pastor, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
March 27 - April 3
Galilee Baptist Church, Rev. L. M. Clark, Pastor, Chicago, Illinois
April 10 - April 24
City-wide Campaign, Buffalo, New York
May 1 - May 15
City-wide Campaign, Salem, Oregon
June 26 - July 10
City-wide Campaign, Flint, Michigan
July 11 - July 17
Youth For Christ Int. Convention, Wisconsin Lake, Indiana
July 18 - July 24
Maranatha Bible Conference, Muskegon, Michigan
July 31 - August 7
Evangelical United Brethren Church Conference - Jennings Lodge, Portland, Oregon
August 14 - August 28
City-wide Campaign, Quakertown, Pennsylvania
August 29 - September 5
Sandy Cove Bible Conference, North East, Maryland

Alone

It is human to stand with the crowd, it is divine to stand alone. It is manlike to follow the people, to drift with the tide; it is God-like to follow a principle to stem the tide.

It is natural to compromise conscience and to follow the social and religious fashion for the sake of gain or pleasure; it is divine to sacrifice both on the altar of truth and duty.

"No man stood with me, but all

men forsook me," wrote the battle-scarred apostle in describing his first appearance before Nero to answer for his life for believing and teaching contrary to the Roman world.

Truth has been out of fashion since man changed his robe of fadeless light for a garment of faded leaves.

Noah built and voyaged alone. His neighbors laughed at his strangeness and perished in style.

Abraham wandered and worshipped alone. Sodomites smiled at the simple shepherd, followed the fashion, and fed the flames.

Daniel dined and prayed alone. Elijah sacrificed and witnessed alone. Jeremiah prophesied and wept alone. Jesus loved and died alone.

And of the lonely way His disciples should walk He said: "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Of their treatment by the many who walk in the broad way, He said: "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

The church in the wilderness praised Abraham and persecuted Moses. The church of the Kings praised Moses and persecuted the prophets.

Book Reviews

(Continued from page 2)

teach. Those examined are Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventists, Christian Scientists, Mormons, British Israelites and Spiritualists. In addition to the chapter on Seventh-Day Adventism there is a special chapter dealing with the Sabbath question.

This is an excellent little booklet which will prove of great value for anyone desiring a working knowledge of these cults. Pastors would find it worthy of placing in the hands of their members or using as a basis for a short study in cults.

ROBERT L. SUMNER

AFTER HIS LIKENESS by Dr. George W. Truett, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids 3, Michigan. 176 pages, \$2.50.

From one of God's Greathearts come these stirring messages about the Lord Jesus and our devotion to Him. On every page there is the exaltation of the Saviour and a challenge to our complete consecration to His cause. The messages are given with great warmth, earnestness, clarity of analysis, and with pointed illustrations. They are very much "down to earth," and reach us just where we are with a view to lifting us into higher service. For example, in the message on "The Unashamed Believer," there is the ringing appeal to every Christian to be a soul winner, for every parent to make sure his household is within the ark of safety. Hear the preacher's earnest plea:

"How can a parent be careless when his child is unanchored to Christ? The home is God's first institution for mankind . . . I am more concerned about the American home than I am concerned about any other thing in America, and there is much in America that makes me anxious now."

DR. V. RAYMOND EDMAN

RE-THINKING the RAPTURE, by E. Schuyler English, Southern Bible Book House, Travelers Rest, South Carolina. 123 pages, \$2.25.

In recent years there has come considerable confusion among Bible-believing and premillennial Christians as to the rapture of the Church—will it precede the tribulation, or come during the midst thereof, or at its conclusion? Every view-point has found advocates; and usually the presentation has consisted more of questions than of the clear teaching of the Scriptures. The problem of interpretation is cogently stated, the relevant Scriptures are carefully studied in a devout and scholarly manner. The differentiation between Israel and the Church as well as between the coming of the Lord for His saints and with His saints is clearly made. Perplexing passages such as II Thessalonians 2 concerning the restrainer are squarely faced and satisfactorily answered. This is a clear statement which will dissipate the difficulties and perplexities that many Christians have had regarding the blessed hope of our Lord's return and our being caught up to be with Him.

DR. V. RAYMOND EDMAN

Important Memo--

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No Enemies?

"You have no enemies," you say? Alas! my friend, the boast is poor;

He who has mingled in the fray Of duty, that the brave endure, Must have made foes! If you have none,

You've hit no traitor on the hip. You've dashed no cup from perjured lip,

You've never turned the wrong to right,

You've been a coward in the fight."

The church of Caiaphas praised the prophets and persecuted Jesus. The church of the popes praised the Saviour and persecuted the saints. And multitudes now, both in the church and in the world, applaud the courage and fortitude of the patriarch and prophets, the apostles and martyrs, but condemn as stubbornness or foolishness like faithfulness to truth today.

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Value, \$1.20. Yours for only \$1 (plus 15c postage if order is less than \$5).

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We Can Have Revival Now, by John R. Rice. Big clothbound book, value, \$2, lectures on revival given at Bob Jones University. Too many on hand so we sacrifice it during this sale for only \$1 (plus 15c postage if order is less than \$5).

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Bible Baptism, eight chapters, 64 pages.

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(See order blank in next column)

A Child's Plea . . .

Who says that I am just a kid,
Too young to know what Jesus did,
When He hung there on Calvary,
For Mother and Dad and boys like me?

Why! didn't He say, as plain as could be,
"Suffer the little ones to come unto Me,"
While on their heads He laid His dear hand,
For He knew, that somehow they'd understand?

Don't children know when they're naughty and bad,
When they grieve their Mother, and worry Dad?
Well, that shows how early they learn about sin.
'Tis then they should open their hearts to let Jesus come in.

So it's up to you big folks to show us the way,
How to live for Jesus at school and at play,
To tell us the story, how He died on the tree,
To save everyone, even children like me.

—LUTHER B. HAINES.

Prayer--Asking and Receiving

(Continued from page 1)

about prayer. It makes us think of prayer as a mystical, indefinite matter, by which one may get what he wants, or may not, as if there were no way to know what is the will of God. It leaves the impression that there is not much use of praying, because God will do what pleases Him anyway without any meddling of ours, so why should we pray? And anything that makes prayer indefinite, and makes the answer seem uncertain, is contrary to the plain teaching of the Word of God.

Sensible people would not be content with any such slipshod and indefinite arrangement about asking and receiving in any other realm of life. Suppose I should drive into a filling station to buy gasoline, and say, "I want ten gallons of gas, please. And check the oil." I expect the affirmative answer. That is, I expect to get just what I ask for. How surprised I would be if the attendant should say, "No, I am sorry, but I don't think you need any gas," and would refuse to fill my empty tank. Or if he should say, as some preachers say God does, "Wait awhile. When you have waited there until I think you deserve it, I'll get you some gas." Or I should be even more surprised if, instead of gasoline, the attendant should fill up my tank with soapsuds, or alcohol, or mud! This "yes" or "no" or "wait awhile" would not seem sensible, I say, to people in any other matters of asking and receiving; and yet they speak in that foolish way about prayer!

Suppose that a young man has learned to love devotedly a certain young woman and has cause to believe that she loves him. Suppose he then asks her to marry him, but she refuses. Would the young man then go along happily saying that he had received his request, that his request was answered, No, and neither should a Christian be content until he can be in such close touch with God that he can get exactly what he asks for, and

rejoice in a "yes" from God in answer to his prayers.

I. The Scriptures Teach That an Answer to Prayer Is Getting What You Asked for

Our modern way of thinking so indefinitely of prayer and expecting nothing when we talk to God, was not the way of Bible Christians. And the Bible promises clearly teach us to expect God to give us just what we ask for when we pray aright. According to the Bible, a genuine answer to prayer is simply getting what you ask for. See how clear this is in the Scriptures.

For example, Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Now, in this Scripture if asking is prayer, then receiving is the answer to prayer.

In these words of Jesus, if seeking is prayer, then finding is the answer to prayer.

If knocking is prayer, then having the door opened to us is God's answer to prayer. There is not a hint here that a Christian should expect God to say, "No," or "Wait awhile."

Again in John 16:24, Jesus said, "Ask, and ye shall receive."

Here if asking is prayer, then receiving is the answer to prayer.

In James 4:2 we are told that "ye have not, because ye ask not."

If asking here is prayer, then God's Word says that having is the answer to prayer.

Dr. Charles A. Blanchard in his book, *Getting Things From God*, has helped me greatly on this matter. Dr. Blanchard, in his chapter on "What Is an answer to Prayer?" says:

"I have repeatedly heard be-

(Continued on page 6)

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Prayer--Asking and Receiving

(Continued from page 5)

loved brethren say that when God declined to do the things which His children desired, the answer was as real as when He granted the things which they desired. The statement is sometimes made in this manner: 'God says sometimes "yes" and sometimes "no." "No" is as really an answer as "yes" so that prayer is always answered.' It has ever seemed to me a cruel trifling with the souls of men to teach in this way. Of course, I do not mean to charge those who thus speak, with intentional cruelty or trifling. Nevertheless, that which they do seems to me a heartbreaking piece of work.

Then Dr. Blanchard gives the example of a mother who prays for the life of her child, but not praying acceptably to God, and the child dies; the example of a businessman in difficulty who prays, but not according to God's will, and becomes a bankrupt, his business in ruin; and the example of a man who is tempted who prays for help but does not pray aright and so falls into shame, with his family broken up, the church embarrassed and the neighborhood demoralized. To all these, Dr. Blanchard says, some good ministers answer, "Oh, no, God has not refused your prayer. He has not failed to answer your prayer. He has just said, 'no.'" And Dr. Blanchard says,

"I do not believe that this teaching is true, and I am sure it would not be a comfort to a mother whose heart lay cold and heavy under the shadow of the little grave. . . .

"I do not believe this teaching to be true and I do not believe it to be a comfort or help to anybody. I think it would tend to make infidels rather than Christians. . . .

Then Dr. Blanchard says:

"An answer to prayer is a granting of the thing which a child asks of his heavenly Father, according to the directions which his Father has clearly set down. If a saint prays for healing for himself or his child or his friend, and God answers his prayer, the sick person will be recovered. If a saint prays in scriptural fashion for relief from financial difficulties, he will be relieved. If he prays in scriptural fashion for victory over the powers of evil, he will obtain victory. An answer to prayer is a granting of the thing desired. Saying 'no' to a request is not an answer to prayer in any real, substantial meaning of the expression. When God answers prayer He says 'yes.'"

And again Dr. Blanchard says:

"Let me once more record my conviction that answered prayer is prayer which accomplishes the results desired. To say that the answer may be 'yes' or 'no' and that the latter is as really an answer as the former, seems to me trifling with the sore hearts and the great needs of man."

As Dr. Blanchard so well teaches, if the proper answer of prayer is a "yes" answer, and if a Christian who prays in a normal and scriptural manner should receive that for which he prays, then when a Christian does not get what he prays for, the Christian should begin a thorough investigation. He knows that God is not wrong. He should set out to discover by the Word of God and by the leading of the Holy Spirit why his prayer has not been accepted and answered. And this makes prayer a simple and understandable business, and the way to full and blessed answers to prayer will soon be open to honest, surrendered, Bible-believing hearts.

II. How to Pray in the Will of God for a "Yes" Answer

All of us know that the average Christian does not usually get exactly what he asks for from God. On the contrary, the average Christian expects nothing of the kind. His prayers are indefinite; they do not pointedly and plainly ask for concrete, definite answers. Ordinary prayers are not really meant to be answered. The ordinary 'prayer' is not asking, and it does not expect an answer of having.

Doubtless this is the reason that so many Christians condition near-

ly every request with the words, "if it be Thy will." We ask God to send a revival "if it be Thy will." We ask God to save sinners for whom Christ died and over whom He yearns with inexpressible longing, "if it be Thy will"! We ask God for the things He has promised to give, the things which He longs to give, the things for which He has entreated us to ask; and then we ask and put a question mark by it—God forgive us! We put an IF in our prayers about whether God is willing to save souls or give revivals or keep His word! But that "if" is not a sign of submission to the will of God—it is a sign of our unbelief. It is a sign of our stumbling about in the dark in our prayers, with no assurance that God will hear us and give us the things for which we ask.

Suppose that in the pulpit your pastor should put an "if" about the virgin birth of Christ, as you put an "if" about His keeping His promises—would you like that? Suppose there is a doubt, an if, and uncertainty, an ambiguity about every doctrine a preacher preaches, with no certainty, no ring of victory, nothing you can absolutely depend upon, in the way the Word of God is proclaimed and taught—would you like that? Well, do you think God would like that? No more does He like us to come with us to come with such unbelief, such stumbling, doubting, uncertainty to ask for the things which He has promised and which He wants to give. No, God wants us to find out how to pray according to His will for things which can honor His great name; and then He wants us to expect definite and exact answers to those prayers. If we ask for bread, He wants us to expect bread, and not a stone. If we ask for fish, He wants us to expect fish, and not a snake. If we ask for an egg, He wants us to expect an egg, and not a scorpion. He wants praying to be on the basis of asking and receiving as simple as that of a child and his own father.

And for that kind of praying, there are certain important requirements. Before we can pray in the will of God with the certainty of getting what we ask for, certain important conditions must be met, which I will name.

1. First of all there must be a full surrender to the will of God. There can be no happy, successful prayer life for a rebellious child of God. Psalm 37:4 says,

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Remember that when Jesus taught us to pray He said the very first requests we are to make are these, "Hallowed be thy name, Thy will be done on earth. . . ." God is our father, and children should be subject to their father. We are not our own. We are bought and paid for, redeemed with the awful price of Calvary. There can be no victory in prayer except as the heart humbly bows and says, "My Father, show me how to pray in Thy will, I want to ask what will please Thee. I want to have what You want me to have." Every Christian who wants to be able to pray for certain definite things and get exactly what he prays for, day after day, should first pray, like the disciples of old, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). God delights to answer the prayer of a surrendered heart, wholly surrendered to His will.

In James 4:2 is the remarkable and blessed promise, "Ye have not because ye ask not." God has so many wonderful things that He longs to give us, and He only waits for our asking. And yet the next verse tells us that "ye ask, and receive not, because we ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." Wicked hearts that seek to have success in prayer without first getting on the praying ground of a surrendered heart, are doomed to disappointment. No doubt here is a great secret of our lack of faith and lack of enthusiasm and lack of success in prayer; we ask amiss that we may consume things on our own lusts.

Sometimes a wife wants her husband saved, and she prays for

him; yet her motives may be all wrong. It may be that the wife thinks, "If my husband were saved, it would be so much easier on me. He would take me to church. He would be kinder in the home." So she prays for the thing that God really wants to do, longs to do; but God cannot righteously answer her prayers. God needs to make the wife's heart right before He can save her husband. So many Christians hinder the answers to their own prayers, prayers that God would delight to answer, if it could be done to His glory, without His encouraging sin. Oh, how important it is that the heart should surrender to the Lord Jesus!

We need to pray with the words of the sweet hymn by George C. Stebbins:

"Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter;
I am the clay.
Mould me and make me
After Thy will,
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still."

"Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Search me and try me,
Master today!
Whiter than snow, Lord,
Wash me just now,
As in Thy presence
Humbly I bow."

"Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being
Absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit
Till all shall see
Christ only, always,
Living in me!"

Dear Christian, if you really are tuned in to Heaven by a heart submitted wholly to the will of God, then you are ready to learn how to pray so you can ask God for exactly what you want and get it.

2. Next, we must have a heart-understanding of God's Word, so we may know the will of God. How can we ask with any assurance that God will be pleased to give us what we ask, unless we know something of His will? For this reason Jesus said:

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7).

Here, asking just what we want and getting it, is said to depend upon our abiding in Christ and His Word abiding in us. We cannot know the will of God without familiarity with the Word. In Psalm 1:1-3, and in Joshua 1:7-9, the prosperity of a Christian in everything is conditioned upon his meditating day and night in the Word of God and walking therein. It is not enough just to read the Word of God. It should abide in us. We should love it, should meditate in it, should absorb it until it colors all of our lives and thoughts. Then when you come to ask something from God and can say honestly: "My dear heavenly Father, I have found in Your Word that You want me to have thus and so, and that it would honor Thy name; You have said for me to ask for it, so I claim Thy promise and believe Thy Word and take what Thou hast promised me"; then we can certainly expect the answer, and get exactly what we prayed for.

For example, notice the sweet promise of I John 1:9 that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Knowing that verse, any Christian in the world can get instant forgiveness for any sin he is willing to confess with his whole heart; and he can get cleansing, too. He has the Word of God for it! It would be a sin for a Christian to doubt that God is ready instantly to forgive and cleanse any Christian who honestly confesses that sin. Or, take the implied promise in the Lord's prayer when the Saviour taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Any Christian familiar with the Word of God can pray for daily bread and get it, knowing already it is God's will. It would be a mistake to pray, "If it be Thy will," about a thing which God has already clearly told us His will.

On the other hand, if a Christian be thoroughly endued with the Word of the Lord, he could not

Dr. Faris D. Whitesell says:

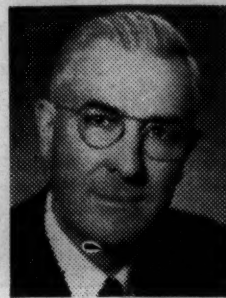
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Dr. Whitesell, professor of Evangelism at the Northern Baptist Seminary in Chicago and author of several popular books, writes of PRAYER-ASKING AND RECEIVING, by Dr. John R. Rice:

"I have read many books on prayer, and this is one of the very best I have ever read. It makes one search his own heart, and wish to pray more. This book is Scriptural, sane and stimulating. It is not a theorizing about prayer, but is a plain and practical unfolding of the Bible teaching on prayer, supported by many personal illustrations proving the truth of the Bible. . . .

"I commend this book unreservedly to all Christians."

Would you like to have a copy of this book for your very own, to reread and carefully study the practical Bible lessons taught in this stimulating volume? We printed a special paper bound edition of this popular book and have been distributing them to our friends who send us subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD during our present enlargement campaign.



Dr. F. D. Whitesell

Here Is How You Get Them

One free paper bound copy of *Prayer-Asking and Receiving* by Dr. Rice will be given for 3 yearly (or 1 three-year) subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD at the bargain rate of \$5. There is no limit on the number of subscriptions and free books per person—the more you send in the better it will be. For each \$5 worth of subscriptions sent in you will receive one paper bound book. For example, if you send 3 subscriptions you will receive one copy; if you send 30 subscriptions you will receive 10 copies.

However, clothbound copies may be had instead of paper bound if you send subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD in groups of 6, not just 3. Using the same example, anyone who sends us 30 subscriptions could have 5 copies of the cloth bound book, if he preferred, instead of the 10 paper bound ones. You may take your choice of the arrangement just as long as you send 3 subscriptions for each paper bound book and 6 for each cloth bound one. Please determine which you want and send the subscriptions today, marking plainly the names and addresses, also whether they are new or renewal.

Chapter IV of this book, "The Answer to Prayer Is Receiving," is found elsewhere in this issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. As you read it carefully you will be impressed with Dr. Whitesell's analysis, "It is not a theorizing about prayer, but is a plain and practical unfolding of the Bible teaching on prayer. . . .

If you wish to simply purchase copies of the cloth bound edition of *Prayer-Asking and Receiving* (the paper bound edition is NOT for sale, but only obtainable from subscriptions) you may get it for \$2.50 from your favorite Christian book store or direct from the Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois. (Please add 15c for postage and handling for one book, 25c for two.)

honestly ask for the great wealth of the world, to the ignoring of spiritual values. If he knew and loved and believed the words of the Saviour in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"; he would certainly know that spiritual blessings are far more important than great wealth, that to seek first the kingdom of God would bring the greatest happiness, the greatest peace, and the greatest prosperity. He would know that one who really seeks first the kingdom of God will have food to eat and garments to wear, beside the peace of God which passeth understanding.

I am saying that one cannot pray in the will of God without knowing the Word of God. The Bible is the revelation of the heart of God. It is the revelation of all that is good and right and true and pure. When you understand from the heart the teachings of God's Word, and when you meditate therein day and night, then you can pray knowing that what you ask for is in the will of God, and that it will both please and honor Him to hear and answer your prayer and give you what you ask for. And prayer that is not based on the Bible is likely to be not pleasing to God. And groups of Christians who put great emphasis on prayer and little emphasis on the Word, are usually fanatical, extremists, who may enjoy emotional ecstasy, but who do not always pray in the will of God and do not get, many times, the things for which they ask.

3. Next, to pray in the will of God one needs the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit's guidance, our poor carnal minds would get only the bare letter of the Bible, and not understand the will of God; for spiritual things are spiritually discerned. And there are a thousand details on which we need to know the mind of God, about which the bare letter of the Word of God does not give information. What shall be the theme of my next sermon? To which sinner should I

speak first about his soul. How shall I approach him? Should I ask God for a new car, or do with the old one for awhile? Does God want my children to take music or not? Shall I send this money to foreign missions, or give it to the local church? What part of the Scripture shall I read in my devotions today? Does God want me to take this business venture? Thus there are a thousand questions about which one needs the personal and detailed guidance of the Holy Spirit of God, or we cannot certainly pray in the will of God and be assured that we have a right to expect what we ask.

But, bless God, every Christian can have the Holy Spirit to help him pray.

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26, 27).

No, we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but our infirmity in this matter is helped by the Holy Spirit. He makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered. An then our prayer, led and dictated by the Holy Spirit, reaches the heart of God; and we get what we ask because the Holy Spirit "maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." The Holy Spirit can pray always "according to the will of God." So any prayer that is inspired and guided and aided by the Holy Spirit can be assured of an answer. When one prays according to the will of God, then that prayer will be answered. Someone has well said that any prayer that begins in Heaven will certainly not be rejected there.

The Holy Spirit is called "the Comforter" by our Saviour (John 14:16, 26; John 15:26; John 16:7). This "Comforter" is a translation of the word *parakletos* meaning

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Prayer -- Asking and Receiving

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"one called alongside." So the blessed Holy Spirit is alongside of every Christian. Better yet, the Saviour said in John 14:17, "Ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." The Holy Spirit dwelled with the apostles before the resurrection. But in the future after Christ was glorified, the Holy Spirit is promised to be *within* us. So when Jesus rose from the dead, He breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost" (John 20:22). Now from that time,

every saved person has the Holy Spirit abiding in his body. Romans 8: 9 says, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." The Spirit of God dwells in us who are saved; and if anybody does not have this Spirit of Christ, this Holy Spirit, dwelling in him, he is not saved. First Corinthians 6:19, 20 says, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." The body of every Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit of God Who dwells within. And, oh, how eager this blessed Holy Spirit is to comfort us and to guide us into all truth and teach us.

In fact, this Holy Spirit of God is also "the Spirit of Christ," as Romans 8: 9 says. Jesus promised the heartsick disciples on the night before the crucifixion, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14: 18). And He explained that He would come in the person of the Holy Spirit of God. And John 14: 26 says, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send IN MY NAME, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

So the blessed Holy Spirit makes known to us the will of Christ and calls to our remembrance what He has said in His Word, and teaches us all things we need to know, as we submit ourselves to Him and with fervent hearts meditate on God's Word. So Christians, then, have a blessed and sure way of knowing the will of God. If they pray according to the plain promises of the Word, and if they are led and helped by the Holy Spirit, then their prayers will be pleasing God. God can put in the hearts of Christians what He wants them to pray for, what will honor His name, what will prosper His cause, what will be for the happiness and good of His children. And when we pray thus according to the will of God we can get exactly what we pray for.

And since the Holy Spirit is Christ's own personal representative, His Spirit, His Comforter, then one who is led by the Holy Spirit can honestly pray in Jesus' name. Every prayer that is honestly presented in Jesus' name will be answered. That is the express statement of John 14: 13, 14. Let us read it again: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask ANYTHING in my name, I will do it." There it is as plain as day. Anything under Heaven, asked in Jesus' name, will be given.

But how often we lie to God about this matter! People have fallen into the custom of saying at the close of their prayers, "This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen." But are we always asking in Jesus' name? Do we really mean, "Father, in Thy Word I have found what you have promised, and the Holy Spirit has made clear this petition is exactly what Jesus wants. Here He puts His endorsement on the prayer, and I know You will give it because Jesus wants it." Is that really always true about the prayers where we add the formal statement, "in Jesus' name"? I believe it is not. I know it is not, because many such prayers do not get the answer they seek; and that proves they are not really given in Jesus' name.

With the above things in mind it seems to me that there are clearly these elements in getting ready to pray. First, we should surrender our own will and decide we will be willing to have God's own will, whatever it is, wherever it leads, and whatever it costs. Second, we should eagerly seek in the Bible to find what is the will of God on the subject, and to pray according to the expressed will of God written down in His Word. And third, we should earnestly submit ourselves to the Holy Spirit for guidance and seek to have clear lead-

The Law of the Harvest

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fact would still be one of the best verified facts of all history.

Men Reap "the Same" as They Sow

I have chosen this text also because of its last two words, "the same." This is the law of the harvest. Man does not reap something similar to the sowing. He reaps the same thing. Corn does not produce wheat. Wheat does not produce rye. Potatoes do not produce artichokes. If I should tell my friends that I had planted corn and gathered a crop of wheat from the planting, they would know that I was either crazy or lying. And yet thousands of sensible people are living their lives as though the thwarting of the law of the harvest were possible.

I once heard the nationally known evangelist, George Stuart, preach on the subject of "Sowing and Reaping." I recall a story that he told. It was not really true,

ing from God as to what we should pray for, and how. And if the Holy Spirit of God gives a divine expectancy, a conquering faith, then we may be sure God will answer the prayer. And no matter how I feel, if I have surrendered my own will and am earnestly trying to find just what God wants me to pray for, and if I pray according to the written Word of God, and pray as the Holy Spirit leads out and as He prays with me and helps me in prayer, then I can be bold in my praying! I can claim and have the best God has for me!

I suggest that you go over your prayer list. Criticize and weigh carefully every item. Are you asking this for a personal, selfish reason? Is it according to the written Word of God? And does the Holy Spirit specially lead you out in prayer for this? If you have given up your own will and if it stands the test of the last two points, then you may with holy boldness storm the gates of Heaven to get the answer to your prayer, and say like Jacob, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me!" (Gen. 32: 26).

Now, beloved Christian, will you put this teaching in practice? Will you begin to pray definitely, asking God for concrete things? And will you seek to pray in the will of God and then expect day by day regularly, complete answers to prayer, receiving from God exactly what you ask Him for?

Remember that prayer is ASKING.

Remember that an answer to prayer is HAVING.

Therefore, "ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16: 24).

"Ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4: 2).

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matt. 7: 7, 8).

If you do not get just what you pray for, then you should set out today to find what is wrong with your prayers. Do not claim to have the answer until you get what you pray for. Either change your prayers so that God can righteously answer them, or correct any fault and sin that grieves the Spirit and hinders your prayers. Then if nothing is found that hinders the affirmative answer you seek, and if you are assured after prayerful study of the Word of God, and opening your heart to the quiet voice of God's ungrieved Holy Spirit, that your prayer is according to the will of God, then you should wait before God insistently, with supplication and importunity, insisting on receiving the thing you have asked for!

Prayer is asking, and the answer to prayer is receiving.

Prayer is seeking, and an answer to prayer is finding.

Prayer is knocking, and an answer to prayer is having God open the door to you.

Prayer is asking, and the answer to prayer is having!

Oh, Christians, I beg you, enter into your privileges, and get the things you want and need and ask for from God!

yet it was so true that I dare to repeat it. It was merely an illustration, yet it happens every day. Such a coincidence would be referred to as a miracle were it not so commonplace. Here is the story:

A boy named John married a girl named Mary. They moved into the old home place. John's aged father lived with them. He was cranky and hard to please. Nothing Mary did suited him. He was constantly critical of her. At last Mary had enough. She said to John, "Your father moves out, or I go back to my mother." John knew she meant business.

So John approached his father. The old man seemed to understand the situation exactly. "I know I'm old and hard to please," he said, "and I feel that Mary's right. You young folks have your lives before you, and I should not interfere with your happiness."

John was not financially able to take care of his aged father in a hotel or rest home; so the old man suggested that he be taken over the hill to the county farm. John was slow to accept this as a way out; yet at length he decided that it was best.

One morning he and his father started walking up the hill, past the barn, through the old orchard. Before they had reached the crest of the hill, the old man's strength was gone. His strong son picked him up in his arms and carried him to the top, and they sat down to rest on a large flat rock. Suddenly the father began to cry.

"Please don't, Father," insisted John. "This is hurting me enough as it is. After all, you suggested it, and I don't know what else to do."

"I'm not crying because I'm going to the poor house," replied the father. "I was only reminiscing, and it broke me up a bit. I was thinking of the time when I married your mother, and my father had to live with us in the old home place. He was old, and childish, and hard to please. Your mother couldn't stand it. And I remember the morning he and I climbed this hill together on the way to the poor house. I recall that he grew weary, and I picked him up and carried him to this rock, and we sat and rested. And the thing that's breaking my heart, John, is to picture you after your oldest son is born, and grows up, and marries, and you are old and contentious and difficult. I was just thinking of the morning when he and you would climb this hill together, and of how, when you gave out, he would pick you up and carry you to this big rock on your way to the poor house."

The story is ridiculous, absurd, impossible! And yet it wraps itself about a truth that all men meet, face, and deal with.

You will recall that old blind Isaac, after the son whom he loved had bartered his birthright for a mess of pottage, decided to thwart the scheming of the younger twin. He told Esau to go out into the forest, kill a deer, and prepare him a savory portion of venison. He promised to bless his favorite boy and restore to him the birthright he had yielded to his brother under pressure of appetite. But the mother was listening in, and she hurriedly sent Jacob to kill a kid of the goats. She knew how to prepare from this a dish that the aged, blind father would think was choice venison.

You will remember that, when the dish was prepared, she wrapped the skin of the young goat about the wrists of Jacob and put it on his neck and chest so that the father, if he grew suspicious, would still believe that his hairy-chested hunter-son stood by his bedside.

Jacob came in with the smoking feast. "I was lucky," no doubt he said, "I found one in the edge of the woods, and the first draw of my bow brought him down. Eat and give to me the blessing."

But the voice didn't sound just right to Isaac. He called the scheming Jacob, felt his wrists, ran his hand under his shirt and over his chest. "You know," said the old man, "for a moment I thought somebody was playing a

trick on me. You're Esau all right, but your voice sounds like Jacob's. I thought for a moment that you were Jacob."

Thus the blind father blessed the wrong boy, and Jacob had sown a lie. The years went by, and Jacob became an old man. He, too, had a favorite boy. He loved the boastful young Joseph above all his other sons. One day he sent this youth to spy upon his brethren and to see if they were working. He sent food by him.

You will recall that these brothers sold this young man to some traders to be carried away as a slave. Then they took his garments, tore them to shreds, killed a kid of the goats, sprinkled the blood on Joseph's rent clothing, and went back to break the heart of their old father with the story that Joseph had been killed and devoured by an evil beast.

The same old kid of the goats! "Even as I have seen, . . . reap the same!"

We call ourselves a thinking people. Some of our preachers are very anxious to meet the intellectual challenge of the times. But is America really thinking? Are we genuinely intelligent? With liquor everywhere and our women drinking as our men? With high-school children defying the laws of morality? With the nation in the grip of a gambling mania such as no nation on earth has ever known? With vice and crime rampant and growing from a hotbed of our own planting? Intelligence? "Be not deceived; God is not mocked!"

But Men Reap More Than They Sow

The law of the harvest is not only that we reap and that we "reap the same," but that we reap a multiplied harvest. We plant a grain of corn, and we reap an ear, or possibly more with scores of grains. We expect it in a cornfield. Strange that we do not expect it in life!

The story of David's sin is one of the saddest of history. It is pitiful and tragic and desperately true. He was guilty of adultery and guilty of murder. He deliberately plotted to take to himself another man's wife; and by his own orders he sent the husband of that wife to the front line of battle, where he died.

You may say, "He was human." I say he was desperately wicked. If you want to know the nature of that sowing, read his psalms. Read the wail of his soul. Read how his feet traveled on the very brink of Hell. Nowhere did God cover the record of that sin. It stands out, black and deadly and damning.

There was a preacher who lived in David's day. His name was Nathan. Nathan visited the king. He did not come to pay a social call or to talk church finance. He came to face David with a terrible law of God, the same law I am holding up to you now. The old prophet pointed his finger at David and said, "Thou art the man." David had suggested that one of his subjects be made to repay fourfold for a stolen lamb, and he found himself sentenced in his own court! The harvest was really fourfold! Sometimes it is tenfold, often a hundredfold! Always it is manifold!

The reaping was not long in coming to David. His child, the fruitage of his illicit love, lay dying. David walked up and down, up and down the hallway outside the door! The nurses worked feverishly. "Spare the child," prayed David. "Take it out on me. I'm the guilty one. Let the child live!" He neither ate nor slept, so great was his anguish. But the child died, and the servants of the household were afraid to tell the king. They didn't know what he might do. The old preacher, no doubt, was present. He possibly prayed for David. And thus the first crop was in the barn! David's sin had found him out!

This same David had a beautiful daughter named Tamar, attractive, vivacious, lovely. He had also a son by the name of Amnon. This son found stirring in his blood something from out of the past. Under the pretense of being sick he lured his beautiful sister into his room and ravished her. It took bold men to bear to David the message of this shame. Here was a sin like

(Continued on page 8)

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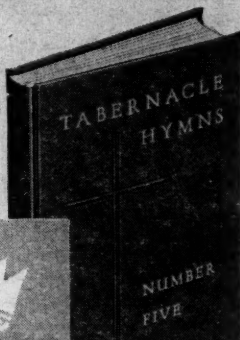
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Souls Saved Through THE SWORD

(Continued from page 3)

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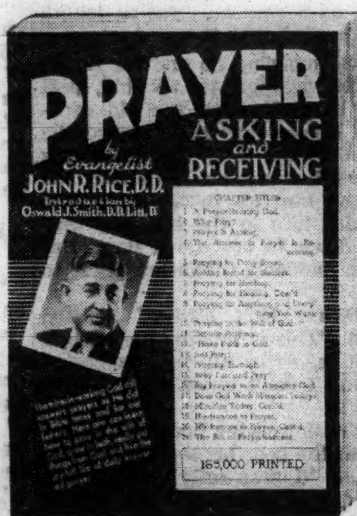
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The Law of the Harvest

(Continued from page 7)

unto his own, and even more foul and deadly. This sin had come into his own palace. This tragedy was under his own roof.

David, no doubt, through the mist of his tears saw a woman who belonged to another. He remembered his lust, his surrender, his fall. He seemed to hear the cry of a dying man in the front-line trenches. "The chickens had come home to roost!" And no doubt the old preacher came to where David lay prostrate with his grief and prayed again that God would have mercy. He possibly put his hand upon David's heaving shoulder and said softly, "Poor David, the second crop is in the barn!"

David had another son, Absalom. Absalom hated Amnon for his crime against his sister. He bided his time and prepared against the day of opportunity. It came. Absalom gave a feast for his brethren. He saw to it that the lecherous Amnon drank heavily, and when he was drunken, Absalom beckoned servants to come up behind him and drive a dagger into his back. Red was the carpet, and crimson were the drapes of the feasting hall. Men who had come close to the king in his suffering may have been the ones who carried to him the news that murder had found its way into his own house. One of his sons lay dead. Another of his sons was a killer.

As he tossed through the long, long night following that tragedy, I am sure that David could not get away from a picture of a soldier dying in the front line! I am rather certain that Nathan arrived sometime during that night. No doubt he sat with David in the dim light of the candle, while servants tiptoed and whispered. It was a starless night for David, even if the heavens were ablaze. It was a night when blood had taken tongue and talked with him. It was a night when the lips of death had whispered of the terrors that followed the violation of God's law. Knowing preachers as we do, we think that Nathan must have knelt with David that night and piteously begged God to bind up the wound in the heart of the king. *But the third crop had been gathered and was in the barn.*

David was now an old man, and the load had been heavy. He was worn with repenting. His heart was broken with contrition. But he hadn't finished reaping. His son Absalom, in whom he so delighted, was his pride, the prince of his house. But Absalom was ambitious. He, too, could use a battlefield for his own personal advantage. So he seated himself at the gate and talked with the people. Gradually he won their love and loyalty away from his father to himself. He organized an insurrection and led a rebellion. David found himself in his old age with the hand of his own boy lifted against him, seeking his life, and determined to usurp his throne. Only God could know David's anguish in those moments!

So David flees from his palace and deserts Jerusalem as Absalom triumphantly enters. The king becomes a hunted man in the wilderness. As the battle is joined, he has strange instructions for Joab, who leads his hosts, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom."

At last the din of battle is over, and David sits waiting. Soon will come a courier with news of the results. David will know whether he is still king over Israel. He will soon have word that may determine whether he will die in the palace on his bed, or be executed by his own son. He sees dimly a man running, and before the messenger reaches him, he asks a question—the one question on his heart!

David does not ask if he is still king, if his armies have won the contest, if he shall have the privilege of going back to Jerusalem in triumph. No! His question is this: "Is the young man Absalom safe?" And when the fateful answer falls on his ears and he knows that the son of his innermost heart is dead, a rebel and a traitor, the old king cries, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God

I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

And the tottering old king again saw, no doubt, through his scalding tears, a soldier dying in the front line of the battle! We feel sure that Nathan was faithful to the last, and that he went along on that slow-moving, pathetic journey from the wilderness back to Jerusalem and the palace, praying constantly for the man whose fourth crop was in the barn!

Sowing and Reaping Are Inexorable Laws of God's Righteousness

To say that a God who thus vindicates His law is cruel is to say that the law of centrifugal force is unjust, and that the God who stands behind that law is a God of vengeance and wrath. If the law of centrifugal force is disobeyed, there is calamity beyond the ability of man to conceive. If we rebel against the law of gravity, we invite tragic consequences. By splitting the atom a bomb was devised that wiped out whole cities. It is now contended by scientists that the splitting of the atom and the releasing of pent-up forces may annihilate humanity. But this is not God's ordained law, nor is His purpose thus fulfilled. The atom is the very foundation of God's universe. There are certain laws that God has ordained which control the energy, force, and power pent up in this tiny center of God's creative genius. The explosion comes with the breaking of law. The extermination of humanity, of which the scientists speak, is not possible if man will permit God to have His way with the atom.

Here is something that puny man had better learn well: To tamper with God's laws is deadly dangerous. God's laws in the physical realm are made to be broken only at our own risk. The danger signs are everywhere.

This is even more true within the moral realm. By the breaking of the laws of God in the moral universe, men are driven to suicide, to crimes beyond the contemplation of the most morbid, to disaster as terrible as though a planet dissolved. Of the laws that have to do with the spirit, with man's eternal soul, with the life that shall never cease, the same may be said with even more emphasis. The God of the Old Testament is a God of law.

In God's vindication of laws that hold His physical, moral, and spiritual universe together some foolish sabbots try to find a God of heartless cruelty. Yet God became flesh and dwelt among us; He died upon the cross and conquered death within a borrowed tomb; He sent His Son; He came; He lives within men's hearts today—all in one tremendous effort to save man from eternal wreckage, the possibility of which is ever present in the violation of the laws of God. Here, indeed, is a great mystery, too great for even those learned scientists who have been able to produce untold destruction and disaster by the violation of God's laws; and yet within this mystery, and there alone, lies hope for all mankind.

Someone will say, "There's where I rest my case." The idea is that, after God's laws have been broken, repentance and faith may atone. By accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, you avoid the consequences of your rebellion against God. Many are preaching that today. The Bible nowhere sustains it. Human experience disproves it. No man can say: "Even as I have seen, the man who has had his eye shot out in a drunken brawl may have it put back into his head when he is converted." I thank God daily for His "amazing grace." His "never-dying love" is my eternal hope. Jesus can and does save to the uttermost all those who call upon Him. Heaven will be populated by sinners saved by grace. But nowhere does the Book teach, or human experience justify a man in believing, that the harvest is wiped out at an altar of prayer.

To have your soul eternally saved by the washing of regeneration is one thing. To escape the

results, the wages, the harvest of sin, while you live, is quite another. Salvation on a deathbed may be in time for the soul but never in time for the life.

My testimony may not be as thrilling as that of some old drunkard who stands and tells how Christ miraculously saved him. I knelt in a mountain church at the "mourners' bench" and was converted at nine years of age. I never once profaned the name of God. I do not know the taste of intoxicating liquors. I never used tobacco in any form. I married when I was twenty-five, and God is my witness that I was as clean in my moral life as I knew my wife was in hers. When my children came, I could walk steadily up and down the hall outside the delivery room, knowing full well that, if a son of mine should come broken and twisted, blind and imbecilic, it would not be as a consequence of his father's sin. I do not boast of this. I am but a sinner saved by grace, as is the drunkard. But, thank God, I came the way of the Christian life in time.

I have never agreed with those who teach that we can simply train and educate our children to be Christians. I believe with all my heart in what the fathers called conversion. But I know that the time for a man to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord is in the days of his youth, before the evil days come. Our children should be taught that they are sinners by nature, and that as such they must of themselves and for themselves "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ" unto salvation. Such faith and such confession should come with the earliest hours of accountability. We need not cheapen Christ's great ultimate, "Ye must be born again," as we bring our children to Jesus. But the law of the harvest is imperative at this point!

God has no law that does not work both ways. The "thou shalt not" of the Bible does not mean that God is interested alone in saving men from penalty. We have laws in America against many criminal practices. These laws say, "Thou shalt not." They prohibit. But their very prohibition signifies that there is a safe and blessed course. Many people object to the "negative" in Christianity. The negative is there because the positive is so important. God often says "no" for the very simple reason that all safety, peace, joy, and security lie within the boundaries of "yes."

"Reap the same!" "Even as I have seen," men do that very thing gloriously. If you plow the field of obedience to God and sow righteousness, you have the law of God to say that you shall reap the same. This is even true outside the grace of God. It pays to tell the truth. It pays to be honest. It pays to be sober. It pays to be loyal to your own home. If I had decided to go to Hell for eternity, I think I would have enough good sense and balanced judgment to be decent while I live. It pays tremendously.

But when you add the grace of God to obedience of the law of God, your dividends mount for time and eternity. I believe I know the secret of the happiness and success of thousands of people. They sowed to the spirit!

In my youth I read over and over the story of Moses. I noticed that he deliberately chose to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. He turned down a throne, denied himself access to the treasure houses of Egypt, and became a shepherd, working for his father-in-law. Worldly reasoning had discovered no such steps toward success. But the logic of Moses was sound. "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." There was a richer storehouse than Egypt afforded. He was choosing between the reasonable pleasures of sin and an eternal recompense. His was the long look. Nor did God fail him. His name is written large in the history of mankind. And God Himself was the undertaker when the body of this mighty leader of Israel was laid to rest upon the mountain.

The story has no ending. The reaping goes on. "Even as I have seen!"

(From the book, *WHAT NEW DOCTRINE IS THIS?*, 159 pages, Price, \$2. Published by Sword of the Lord Publishers.

The Bible — . . . ?

(Continued from page 1)

dow." Had he kept in mind Darwin's speculations, he might have changed his speech in the matter of measure, saying, "Theories come into our laboratory by the ton."

This has always been true of the scientific laboratory, and the dump-heap of theoretical refuse holds some strange suppositions. It is not so long ago since Van Helmont, a celebrated alchemist, taught that "the smells which arise from the bottom of morasses produce frogs, slugs, leeches and other things." When Sir Thomas Browne expressed doubt as to whether mice were bred of putrefaction, a famous scientist, Sir Alexander Ross, hotly replied:

"So may he doubt whether in cheese and timber, worms are generated; or if beetles and wasps in cows' dung; or if butterflies, locusts, grasshoppers, shell-fish, snails, eels, and such like, be procreated of putrid matter, which is apt to receive the form of that creature to which it is by formative power disposed. To question this is to question reason, sense and experience. If he doubts this, let him go to Egypt and there he will find the fields swarming with mice, begot of the mud of Nylus."

I haven't a doubt that the college students who sat at the feet of Professor Ross believed that he had utterly demolished not only Sir Thomas Browne, but the first chapter of Genesis by that statement, and, in fact, he had as good a foundation for his statement as Darwin has ever yet presented for his "Origin of Species."

Ernst Haeckel, the infidel instructor of Jena, says that "in the second half of the 19th century, the science of evolution attained to a perfect clearness and a universal application." Haeckel's speech is with forethought. He doesn't propose to limit this theory to vegetable and animal existence, but to apply it at every point of human thought, including at once the Scriptures and involving even the Christ of God.

In the Realm of Scripture, This Theory Is a Pure Speculation

If concerning the origin of species Mr. Darwin was led to remark as many as 800 times, "We may well suppose," the application of this theory to the origin and growth of the Bible is "supposition" raised to the nth degree. Denying alike the age and authorship of the Old and New Testament books, the evolutionists "assume" another age; "assume" other authors; "assume" compositions; "assume" accretions; "assume" additions, combinations, translations, transpositions, improvements, evolutions. The recurrent phrase, "Thus saith the Lord," of the Scriptures, is equalled and overmatched by the repeated "We may well suppose" of the new school.

There is a principle in education which I observed while at college that explains the growth and popularity of modern skepticism. It is this: That a student whose memory is most retentive is always regarded by his professor as the brilliant pupil, and often, on that very account, ad-

vised to "specialize in some science." But one would need only to consult the consensus of class opinion to discover that his fellow students seldom hold the judgment and reasoning powers of such a pupil in any considerable esteem. His teacher and textbook provide him all his opinions. He is like a sponge that absorbs easily and leaks under the lightest pressure, but no change whatever takes place in the opinion he takes in on the one side and passes out on the other. He is an intellectual parrot! With apologies to the exception who is capable of personal thinking, he is prime material for a school professor, but is nondependable as a philosopher and equally nonreliable as a scientist.

Let me give a single illustration in proof of this. Dr. John A. Rice (please note, not John R. Rice, editor) was justly forced from the presidency of the Southern Methodist University at Dallas, Texas, on account of his skeptical teachings. In his book on *The Old Testament in the Life of Today*, he states what he has picked up from somebody's pen, namely, that "the book of Deuteronomy was not written until the 8th century before Christ"; and he attempts to explain the reason for writing it in this language: "During this period when the old Canaanitish cults were flourishing, reinforced by Assyrian ideas and customs, the book of Deuteronomy was written to offset the current evils of the day. It was the joint product of the prophet and the priest, with the prophet in the ascendancy; it was written and laid aside in the Temple where it was discovered in 621 B. C."

How illuminating! Can anybody imagine such a fool as was the author of that book? To produce such a volume, at a time of such need, at such enormous pains, to meet an exigency, and then lay it up in the Temple and leave it, and go your way to your grave, and sleep the sleep of the dead for 200 years before your book was even discovered! The brilliance of such a supposition ought to impress any man with Rice's superficiality, and, for that matter, with the superficiality of the Wellhausen school from which he absorbed his suggestion!

There is only one possible explanation of the attempt to apply the evolution theory to the origin and growth of the Bible—that is found in an indisputable fact, namely,

This Theory Is the Conception and Expression of Skepticism, Not Science

It is well-known that it originated with unbelievers. Darwin was made an agnostic through his own speculations. Spencer was a skeptic; Huxley was an agnostic, and Haeckel was an atheist, who called himself a monist. Not a single one of these men was ever famed as a Bible student. When they touch upon the subject of religion at all, they prove their contempt for it. Haeckel reveals his utter antagonism to Christianity again and again. To him the Christian faith was a "superstition" and the adoption of it was "stupidity." He says, "Never will our government improve until it casts off the fetters of the church." And again, "The climax of the opposition to modern education and its foundation, advanced natural philosophy, is reached, of course, in the church."

It is not unnatural, therefore, that young men and women taught by such teachers, taking into the very lungs of their intellects the atmosphere of such textbooks as they produced, should turn out liberalists, freethinkers, monists, infidels, atheists!

Like begets like. If the colleges and universities of this day had, in a solemn convocation, deliberately decided to extinguish the Bible, annihilate Christianity and introduce a reign of intellectual and moral terror, they need not have changed their educational methods one whit. The election of these infidels as the leaders of thought, and the adoption of textbooks based upon their unbelieving philosophy, and the stressing of their so-called science as against the Scriptures, is the exact course

to be taken in effecting such an end, and the next quarter of a century will make manifest to the whole world, that if the present teaching and textbooks are continued, Christianity will almost as completely perish from our land as it has from the soil that sprouted it! The paganism of the Arab of Judea, and the savagery of the Turk of Palestine will be equalled if not exceeded by the coming American citizen! The fact that we keep the Occidental dress as the Germans do, and a veneer of manners, will in no wise save our morals nor lend any conceivable escape from that savagery which produced the late World War (I), the war for which a single man, Nietzsche, the ablest exponent of evolution yet produced, was most responsible. "When the foundations are removed, what shall the righteous do?"

But to appeal to your reason rather than to your fears, I ask your attention next to

THE CLAIM OF INSPIRATION

on the contention of the text, "All scripture is inspired of God."

That Contention Has Back of It the Clear Claims of the Bible Itself

Every prophet professes to record what he received from God. The New Testament writers were equally explicit in their contention of Divine authority for what they said. The Old Testament claimed that word and thought alike were given of God. God was with Moses' mouth (Exod. 4:10-12) and taught him what he should say. God was in David's tongue (II Sam. 23:1, 2) imparting speech. God put His testimony into Jeremiah's mouth (Jer. 1:6-9). Peter said, "No prophecy ever came by the will of man." Paul contended that both the thoughts and words in which he expressed himself were alike inspired (I Cor. 2:12, 13). Jesus said of His speech, "The Father gave me a commandment, what I should say and what I should speak."

The modernist's opposition to the verbal inspiration of the Bible is another proof of his defective mental process. Dr. Kuyper has wisely said, "You can as easily have music without notes or mathematics without figures as thought without words!" People sometimes say, "A penny for your thoughts." If they have not taken the form of words, they are not worth it. The only thoughts that have ever been regarded as of sufficient importance to record had first to take the form of words, and that theory of the inspiration of the Bible which accords divinity to the thoughts and denies it to the language in which they are clothed, is as illogical as unscriptural, as unscientific as superficial. He who disregards the claim of inspiration made by the Bible, in that very denial abolishes the Book itself. Often as Mr. Darwin said of his speculations, "We may well suppose," oftener yet do the Scriptures affirm, "This is the Word of the Lord."

If one says that the contention for the authority of the Bible on the basis of its self-assertion is reasoning in a circle, it is sufficient to answer, "We take the testimony of a man for himself, provided his testimony on all other matters is true," and to this test we are perfectly willing to have the Bible subjected. If what it has to say on the other subjects is certified by the centuries of human experience and observation, why deny or even doubt its assertions concerning its own character?

It Has Beneath It the But-tressing Walls of Bible History

This Book is not a novelty. Its latest utterances wear the ermined majesty of millenniums. Its every page has been exposed to any and every investigator, friend or foe, for thousands of years, and in all cases where unbelieving prejudice did not exceed that of Pilate, candid men have been compelled to say, "We find no fault in it." The testimony popularly borne against the Pentateuch is a mass of perjured lies. The denial of the historicity of the Old Testament events in the name of science is nothing short of the traduction of science itself. For

full fifty years every turn of the archaeological spade has proved the moral dishonesty and scientific inaccuracy of Bible opponents. They once denied that Moses could write the Pentateuch, saying that writing did not exist in Moses' day. Then archaeology brought up the Laws of Hammurabi, antedating Moses by 500 to 1,000 years.

Defeated at that point, they shortly turned about and denied Moses himself, questioning wheth-

er such a man ever lived. Once more the turn of the spade put them to confusion, and brought out of the ancient archives of the earth the very name of the man whose existence they had disputed. And now the latest dodge of this indigenous infidelity is to insist that while Moses wrote some portions of the Pentateuch, there were many other writers who contributed, and the Pentateuch is

(Continued on page 10)

Let's Face it -- S-D Day Failed But "You and I" Can Succeed

It was a beautiful idea. But it didn't work. Safe Driving Day (December 15th last) failed. There was no sizeable reduction in death and accidents on our highways. There was a reduction against the same day the year before but it was not sizeable.

We think we know the reason. The attack did not go deep enough. The reason is that "wrong thinking" causes most accidents—but we have not yet begun to realize how that "wrong thinking" really works. A study of accident-prone drivers turned up some interesting things. Such persons think success in life depends on luck—not hard work. This thought is buried deep in their minds. They take chances on the road because they believe luck will take care of them. They believe they can drink and drive without accidents. There are people who are not comfortable when driving unless they pass every car on the road. Down deep in their minds they feel they have to "get ahead of everybody." Their business associates don't like them. They are not content to do a good job—that is not their objective. They have to get ahead of all their associates in business. And on the highways they really let themselves go. There are people who down deep hate their fathers because of a life long pattern of resistance to discipline from babyhood to maturity. To them every policeman is a symbol of "the old man." And so is every traffic law. And they get a sort of satisfaction in defying the policeman and violating every traffic law. They're "getting back at the old man." There are multitudes of these "wrong thoughts" buried deep in the minds of people—for example: "I'm an important person—people should get out of my way"; "When somebody takes advantage of me—I'll find a way to take advantage of him"; "My business is important—the other fellow should look out"; "It makes me sore to see anyone get away with anything—and I'll stop him if I can"; "If anyone tries to pass me I won't let him"; "Nobody has a car that'll go faster than mine and I'll show them." To a far greater extent than we have ever realized, these sub-conscious ideas in our minds control our driving—and for that matter, everything else we do also.

As you have driven down the street, you've seen many drivers do stupid things. You are frankly astounded they could be that way. But have you ever considered the possibility that you, too, do some stupid things you may not be conscious of? If we suggest that possibility, do you find yourself feeling angry at us? If so, that's the best evidence that you are wrong in many ways. Mere appeals to the motoring public that everybody should drive more carefully will not get the job done. We've got to dig deeper. We must pull out the deep down compulsions of people. We need a mental housecleaning that begins with you and me.

If you could rid yourself of the illogical things you do behind the wheel—the things you are not even conscious of—your own true accident factor would go down. That might save your life, the lives of your loved ones, or the life of the neighbor you should love as yourself. There's a technique for this that works. The next time you catch yourself doing something behind the wheel that you suddenly know is or you suspect might be wrong, stop at once and ask yourself this question: "What thought made me do this?" You will probably think of it at once. It will perhaps surprise you. Then decide to be absolutely honest with yourself. Without any negative emotion run that thought through your mind slowly again. Was it right? If not, toss the thought out as a piece of mental garbage. You'll observe you do not make that same mistake again thereafter. Resolve now to do this today and each day from now on. You'll be surprised. This technique is not ours. It comes from a prominent management consultant and expert in the field of human relations. He has tested the technique over and over and can prove it works. It works in many other fields and we'll send you more information on it if you desire.

And now, we would like to tell you a bit about America's most unusual insurance company—"Preferred Risk." There are people who just "have to have a drink" when they face any problem, or go out socially. On the way home they will not admit to themselves that their driving is impaired, even slightly. They get into an accident. At least 8,000 people were killed and 250,000 injured that way last year. They have plenty of wrong thoughts deep down in their minds and what alcohol does to flame them up is plenty. And an insurance company pays the bill. But only for a moment—in the end the policyholders pay the bill with premiums. This has been going on for a long time. But there are people who believe that drinking just doesn't make sense. And they never drink. They don't find it logical. We call them "abstainers." Our business is insuring their cars. In 1947 with 225 policyholders we began insuring them. That's our business and our only business. Today we have over 90,000 policyholders, over \$3,000,000 in assets, and a nationwide organization. Because we avoid the costly wrecks due to drinking, we've found our losses less than average. This saving we pass on to our policyholders in the form of standard non-assessable policies at generally lower premium cost. And we believe that policyholders who are relatively free from compulsive wrong thinking build up safe driving records, and are entitled to special consideration. We reward such drivers with a "merit dividend" for accident-free driving. Do you qualify for this insurance? If so, why not drop us a card or letter for full details on insurance for your car?

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The Bible — . . . ?

(Continued from page 9)

only a composite, all of which they claim on the basis of "style" traced through the intricacies of the text, assigning to one man every portion where the word "Yahveh" appears, and giving the author of that part as "J"; and wherever Elohim is found, they affirm a second author and call him "E"; and wherever anything priestly appears they put down "P" for a third author, etc.

When, 4,000 years from now, the living critics exhume the First Baptist Church of Minneapolis and find my library, they will take my books and prove that they are composites. Wherever I speak of God, they will find one author and name him "G"; wherever I speak of the Heavenly Father, they will find another author and call him "H. F."; wherever I call him Lord, they will find a third author and name him "L"; and wherever I speak of Christ, they will name a fourth author "C"; and they will have the exact same basis to prove that my books were produced by four men that they have applied to the composite theory of the Pentateuch.

The persistence of these men in the face of rebuffs received from facts unearthed by archaeology almost proves a predetermined infidelity. They once denied the historical existence of any such four kings as were reported to have captured Lot, but archaeology uncovered the entire quartet. They once denied that bricks could

be made without straw, but Professor Coburn went to Egypt and dug and carried away with his own hands, bricks, proving absolutely the use of straw at first, stubble later, and finally roots and sticks.

The attempt is even yet made to deny the Exodus of Israel from Egypt and the migration of that nation into Canaan, but a tablet of the time of Menephtah II, the Pharaoh of the Exodus, bearing the name of "Israel" is a secular testimony to Sacred Writ. They have exhumed portraits of the kind of Canaanitish soldiers that disputed with Joshua the occupation of the Promised Land. They once denied that there was any such a king as Belshazzar reigning in Daniel's day, but later the testimony of the rocks told the story of Nabonidus, the real king, and of Belshazzar, the co-regent son.

In fact, one can multiply these instances to an extent that only the unwilling will remain unbelieving.

Professor Ira Price of the University of Chicago, a student of Semitic languages and an archaeologist of world fame, after rehearsing instance upon instance, concludes:

"These records, chiseled in adamant volumes, stamped in imperishable clay, painted in the darkness of the tombs, or cut on mountain side, bring impartial, unimpeachable and con-

clusive proof of the veracity of the Old Testament."

Before I pass from this subject, however, I must make mention of another, namely, the notion that our text is unclean, corrupt by compilations, transcriptions, translations, etc.

The indictment involves an exploded falsehood. Not only were these books given direct to man from God, written down immediately upon their receipt by the man who received the revelation, but the law of the Scribes forbade any change whatever in the process of copying, and from time immemorial, demanded the painstaking in handling the text that proves as positively the Divine preservation as the text itself positively asserts the Divine inspiration. The slightest defects in a synagogue roll vitiated the same. Even the blurring of letters brought about by the reverent kissing of the opening and closing words of the portion to be read, condemned a document. They not only took the utmost pains in transcribing what was said; they had to make the letters exactly the same in size and character, the lines the same in length. In fact, one manuscript had to be a facsimile reproduction of the original. So careful were these copyists that they counted the words and letters, the points and accents, chapter by chapter, through the entire volume, and like a modern accountant, effected a "trial balance" for every page and line of the book. This rendered false translations, interpolations, accretions, subtractions practically im-

possible. It remained the special privilege of the skeptical—Jehoiakim among the ancients, and Professor Kent among the moderns—to take away from the Bible and thereby effect the sacrilege of attempted substitution.

Concerning the New Testament, the case of Divinity in origin and preservation is stronger still. Harnack, the destructive critic, has to consent that the four Gospels belong to the 1st century, and that the book of the Acts is a companion piece. Paul looms too large in history for any intelligent man to dispute either his existence or his authorship, and as for John and the Revelation, we have the writings of his disciples extant, witnessing alike to his personality and his production.

Its enemies themselves being witnesses, there is not a New Testament book nor yet a New Testament author named whose inspiration has been successfully disputed.

The Claim of Inspiration Has Around About It the Body of Christ—the Church

That institution must be accounted for, and the Bible alone provides an explanation. Its 20 centuries of challenging, conquering history demanded interpreta-

As Arthur Pierson said:

"The little army of Jesus with no badges or banner, no weapon but truth and no force but persuasion, in the face of the fearful persecutions, grew mightier year by year. The blood of the martyrs was the seed of the new churches and fell, like fertilizing dew, on a barren soil. * * The Gospel overcame evil with good. Gathering strength like volcanic fires beneath the surface, it heaved social life like an earthquake, bringing to the dust its palaces of iniquity and its throngs of regal wrong."

Walter Rauschenbusch, a destructive critic, said of it:

"It has lifted woman to equality and companionship with man; secured the sanctity and stability of marriage; changed parental despotism to parental service; eliminated unnatural vice; the abandonment of children, blood revenge, and the robbery of the shipwrecked from the customs of Christian nations. It has abolished slavery, mitigated war, covered all lands with a network of charities to uplift the poor and the fallen; fostered the institutions of education; aided the progress of civil liberty and social justice, and diffused a softening tenderness throughout human life. It has done all that and vastly more," and if you ask "How?" the answer is to be found in a single sentence and the only sentence that has any meaning whatever, namely: "It has given the world a Bible," and out of that Book has blossomed every blessing, personal, social or national, known to man.

Who can believe that such streams will flow from an uninspired fountain?

But I turn from this question to

THE WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE

confidently affirming that it is with the claims of inspiration and against the theory of evolution.

The Conceptions of the Bible Favor Inspiration Vs. Evolution

In evolution, we commence with the monad and propose to end with the superman. I beg pardon, let me be up-to-date—we begin with an electron and propose to finish with a Weismann. In the intellectual realm, we commence with the primitive thought of an ape, and progress to the scientific attainments of a Chicago University professor. Personally, I am willing to concede with them, there may be progress between these two points.

But I must turn about to call attention to the fact that the Bible no more commences with an ape idea than it ends with a Chicago University professor's conclusions.

On the other hand, the Bible begins and ends on a plane so lofty that only inspiration can explain the height to which it rises or the flight in which it is sustained.

Take for instance, the opening

sentence of the Bible—"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Nothing more true, nothing more majestic, nothing more lofty has ever found expression in human speech.

Joseph Parker says,

"As a mere sentence, it cannot be exceeded in grandeur. As a conjecture, no addition can be made to its sublimity. As a true voice from eternity, it cannot be charged with apology or incertitude."

The candid consideration of this opening sentence of the Bible, its antiquity considered, would convince any unprejudiced student that it was "the Word of God" and not of man, the acme of inspiration and not the electron of evolution!

The Anticipations of the Bible Positively Prove Inspiration Vs. Evolution

A. J. Gordon said, "Prophecy is the mould of history." If so, we have in prophetic fulfillments a scientific demonstration of inspiration. Here we come upon a wealth of argument, the weight of which is as irresistible as would be an avalanche sweeping the sides of Mt. Everest.

The comparatively minor sentences of prophecy that majored in history, who can measure? Noah received from God a prophecy, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. Blessed be the Lord God of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem and Canaan shall be his servant." That prophecy was not only literally fulfilled, but to this day holds at every point.

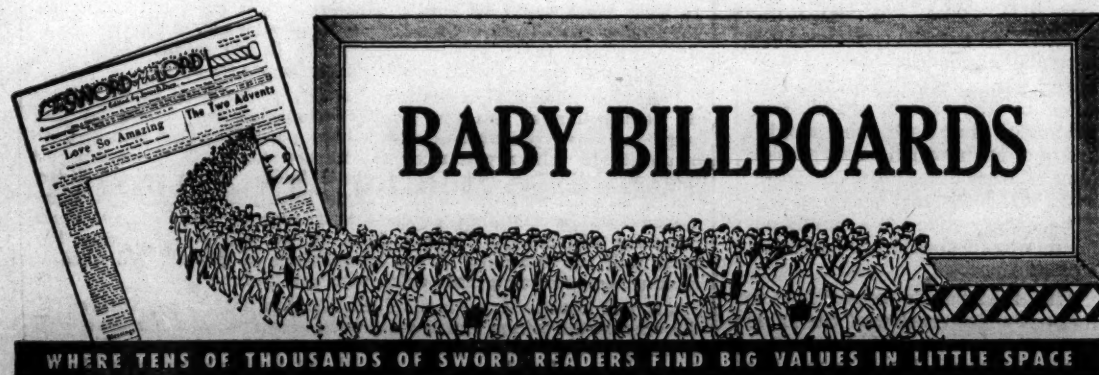
In the book of Deuteronomy we read of Israel, "Ye shall be plucked from the land. The Lord shall scatter ye among all people. Among these nations thou shalt find no ease." Every man who knows aught of the Jew knows that that prophecy finds in history a literal fulfillment.

Zephaniah wrote, "I will make Nineveh a desolation." The words find literal fulfillment. Of the city of Babylon in the day of its surpassing glory, it was written, "Babylon shall become heaps. Wild beasts of the island shall dwell there and owls. It shall be no more inhabited forever," and it has taken place even as promised. Jesus looked on Jerusalem and declared its coming destruction. Descending to very minutia of speech, He said, "Not one stone of the temple shall be left upon another." Forty years later it was so! Daniel, in the second chapter of his book, prophesied an outline of history from which 27 centuries have departed in no particular!

But to show how the prophets could express even the very particulars of an incident, remind yourselves of Zechariah's statement concerning the Christ who was to come, "He shall ride into Jerusalem upon a colt, the foal of an ass"—a sentence that waited 700 years for its fulfillment and at the end of that time saw the last word of the assertion realized. Time and space forbid that I attempt the exhaustion of this source of witnesses; but to show how potent is the argument, only remember that prophecies concerning the Christ begin in the 3rd chapter of Genesis and conclude with the 22nd of Revelation, and only those have failed to find the forms of history that remain for certain fulfillment.

"The seed of the woman" was to bruise the serpent's head; a "virgin" was to "conceive and bear a son"; His name was to be called "Immanuel"; He was to be "a child born," "a son given," a "Counsellor," a "Mighty God," a "Prince of Peace," "an Everlasting Father," "the lily of the valley," "the Rose of Sharon," "the Branch," "The Lord our righteousness," "The Man of God's right hand," "the Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief," "the son of Abraham," "son of David," "Son of Man," "Son of God," "King of the Jews," "King of Israel," "Lord of Lords," "Second man," "the last Adam," "the first and the last," "the beginning and the ending," "the Way, the Truth and the Life," "the Light of the World"—and such He is, and such He was, and such He will ever remain. It was prophesied that He

(Continued on page 11)



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News Notes

Biola Releases New Missionary Film on New Guinea
By Evangelist Walter Handford, Vice President
Sword of the Lord Foundation

The Bible Institute of Los Angeles has just released an excellent film showing the need for missionary work in New Guinea. Dr. Louis T. Talbot, chancellor of the school, took the pictures while visiting the islands of New Guinea.

The photography in this 38-minute, 16 mm. sound film is excellent. It is well produced by Mr. Virgil Wemmer of the Biola Film Department. The complete film is in beautiful color which shows up many of the native costumes to their best advantage.

The sound and narration are also very professionally handled. There are actual recorded sound effects from some of the jungle scenes and the continuity is excellent. The whole film is done with a pleasing blend of picture and narration in which each complements the other and tells a complete story.

The picture is excellent technically and there is a good spiritual impact as well. The challenge for missionary volunteers is well handled. One scene shows a native church with the Christians taking a stand for the Lord. The way of salvation is made very clear and plain. The narrator shows that not all the heathen are in New Guinea or Africa or on the mission fields of the world but many of them are in our big cities of America.

Address Bible Institute of Los Angeles, 558 S. Hope Street, Los Angeles, California, for rental on free-will offering basis.

The Cost of Crime
J. Edgar Hoover, director of the
(Continued on page 11)

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The Bible — . . . ?

(Continued from page 10)

would lay down His life for the people, but it was also prophesied that on the third day He should rise again. It was prophesied that He should ascend into the heavens. All those prophesies were long since converted into history.

What other religion can point to such proofs of Divinity? What other book can bring such a certificate of its inspiration?

The Total Character of the Book Demands Inspiration Vs. Evolution

I have spoken of THE BOOK, and such it is. Someone says, "No, it is a library! It is 66 books!" "Yes!" "Written by 40 authors?" "Yes!" "Produced in a period equalling if not exceeding 1500 years?" "Yes!" "By men, many of whom never met each other or heard one of another." "Yes!" And yet we find it *one* book. The unity of the Scripture is an evidence of its divinity. Its authors lived in different countries, were affected by different circumstances, spoke different languages, employed diversities of literary style, and yet from Moses to Malachi, the Old Testament moves without a break, and from Matthew to Revelation, the New proceeds without an hiatus. Not one of the 66 is in conflict with another. Yea, more, not one of the 66 but produces an essential part of the glorious whole and so fits what he has to say into the consummation, as to complete and perfect it.

Someone has said, "The Old Testament is patent in the New, and the New is latent in the Old," and yet, "while there is no collision between the writers, neither is there any evidence of collusion."

I cannot help contrasting all this with my recent readings in the realm of "assured knowledge," "certified science," for I have just been reading Darwin, Weismann, LaMarck, Mendel, Haeckel, Os-

born, Conklin and others. No two of them are in agreement. While they hold in a general way to a basel theory, at every single point where they attempt its explanation, they part company. The reason is not far to seek! These uninspired men are dealing in a series of "suppositions," while the biblical writers are themselves the subjects of inspiration. Their speech is the model of the centuries; their themes are the most lofty; their discussions the most intelligent; their conclusions the most unanswerable.

The proposal of Mr. H. G. Wells to provide a new Bible will produce in the thinking world only derision and scorn. Men know that our Bible cannot be improved upon. Yea, better, they know full well it will never again be equalled.

The great Joseph Parker sanely asked:

"Can any man add one true line to the moral or spiritual code of the Scripture? Can any man publish an appendix of omitted morals? Can any man add to the tender balms and solaces provided in the Bible for broken hearts and wounded spirits?"

Is there a point at which you can provide a solitary jot or tittle to its teaching that would prove to the world of profit? If not, why make a mock of the masterpiece of the ages? If not, why neglect the Book of books? If not, why shut the ears against sentences that are so clearly from God? If not, why sit at the feet of men and permit them, in your presence, to scorn its evident divinity? If not, why not accept it as the basis for life building, as the Pole Star for life's direction, and as the source of information concerning the life that is to come?

(From the book, INSPIRATION OR EVOLUTION, published by Union Gospel Press, Cleveland, Ohio. Used by permission.)

God's Last Call

(Continued from page 1)

I write these words, I almost tremble to think of the many times I could have gone to Hell without excuse. Many who read this message will be saved. There will be a great number of you who are "almost persuaded." You have been on the verge of a decision for Christ more times than once. This could well be the last sermon you will ever read. This could be the last time you will have a chance to do what you know you should have done long ago. God says, "Today is the day of salvation," and warns "tomorrow" may be too late. Your own good commonsense tells you that, if you ever really expect to be saved, now is the time. One short hour from now you could well be among the great number who will have met their Maker.

But how do we recognize the voice of God? How do we know when God is speaking? God speaks in many different ways! I firmly believe that you will agree with me that God has spoken to you in all of the following ways.

Nature

First, through nature. You have seen "the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shew His handiwork." You have looked up into the star-studded sky and been overwhelmed with the God of creation. You have said, "Surely there must be a god." And you were right. There is a God, and He spoke to you then!

But that was not the only time, because He also spoke to you through

Conscience!

"Conscience makes cowards of us all," says William Shakespeare; but the Bible says, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth" (Ps. 28:1).

God gave each man a conscience. This conscience is one of the distinguishing features of mankind. Conscience is not a safe guide, but conscience oftentimes is the voice of God warning of our need of salvation and forgiveness. Conscience tells us we are wrong—

that we have sinned. We can sin against conscience so often that we become hardened. We can ignore the voice of God and come to the place where we no longer hear God speaking.

The first time you took God's name in vain, "conscience smote you." You felt the ache of guilt. But some of you have cursed and sworn until now you blaspheme God's holy name, and your conscience doesn't trouble you!

The first time you stole, you were inwardly rebuked; but now some have become common thieves and go home and sleep the sleep of false peace. Conscience no longer keeps you awake at night.

You broke your marriage vows and felt the sting of shame. God warned you! He rebuked you through your own conscience, but now you can go home after a night of sin and look your wife in the face without a pang of conscience. I wouldn't give you ten cents for your chance of Heaven! You have stifled the voice of conscience. You have hardened your neck. You have real cause to be alarmed. If I were you, I would get down on my knees and cry out to God to give me back my sense of shame—talk to me again through conscience. Don't boast of your hard heart. Don't feel that you have "really grown to be an adult"—go down before God and tell Him that you have sinned. Turn your life over to Him. Do it quickly. Do it now. If you can violate the laws of God and not feel guilty, you are on the verge of sudden destruction, for "He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy!" (Prov. 29:1).

The Bible

The Bible is still another way in which God speaks to man. Every person in this country has easy access to a Bible. You have had in your hands more than once a copy of God's Word. God speaks twenty-four hours a day through the Holy Scriptures. The Bible is God's whole revelation. All that man needs to know about eternal

things is contained in this holy volume. On every page God has a message for you. You don't have to read the Bible. You may, if you wish, refuse to hear it read or preached. But God speaks and you will be held accountable. In college I did not always listen to the professors' lectures. But there came a day of examination in which I wished I had listened. I was held accountable for what was said.

There is going to come to you one great big, final day of examination! You will be held accountable for God's message to you! You had better open the closest Bible and find out what God is saying. You can ignore the teacher's warning and "flunk" a course. You may fail to heed the doctor's warning and die of a dreadful disease. But, if you fail to heed the warnings of the Word of God and lose your soul, it will be "without remedy"—there will be no second chance. You will have forever failed! And I should say right here and now that Jesus Christ makes it definitely clear that Hell is a horrifying reality! "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

How many times have you read such words as the above and said in your heart, "I had better take care of my soul"? God was talking to you. You were being "reproved" through the Bible.

Again, God speaks through

The Preacher

There may be some things about the preacher we do not like, but, if God sent him, he is the voice of God to those who hear him. God never sends a preacher to go out alone. He goes along with the preacher. He is God's messenger. Did a preacher ever come to you and lay his hand on your shoulder and ask you to turn to Christ? Did he tell you of God's offer of pardon and forgiveness? Did he urge you to beware of putting off your soul's salvation? He was God's man.

I have talked to some who are in Hell right now. They heard and hardened their hearts. They are in Hell without excuse! God always warns before doom and destruction. This is your warning. You have been warned before. This is not the first time! But this might be the last time! "Beware lest he take thee away with his stroke; then a great ransom cannot deliver thee" (Job 36:18).

The great ransom of Jesus' blood shed on Calvary's cross can deliver you today, but not after you are dead. The Devil may tell you that you have plenty of time, but you know that is a falsehood. You do not have plenty of time. You have for certain this moment; after this is mere guessing. Your immortal soul is at stake! I have no way of telling you how many times you have heard one of God's preachers, but this I do know, you are certainly reading a God-given message now, and it is the voice of God to your heart. I pray God you will take it seriously. "He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Many of God's servants have told me of instances where this text has been proven.

Recently near Pontiac, Michigan, a man, after making a boast, fell dead in church on his way out!

In Washington State a lady fell dead when she rejected a plea by a minister. Said she, "I don't care for these arm-waving evangelists!" Maybe she didn't, but this I care for her! But it is too late now. If some preacher cares enough to come to you, be careful you don't turn down for the last time the call of God for your soul. I come to you now through the medium of the printed page and call you to repent before it is too late. Turn to God today.

I received a letter from a pastor where we had just closed a four-week evangelistic campaign where souls were saved every night. He told me of watching a man die whom we had warned three times during the month. Each time he had told us, "I've got plenty of time." Rev. _____ said, "I was called to his bedside, and I could see he was dying; so once more I called to him. His lips began to move again for the last time, and he mumbled, 'I've

News Notes

(Continued from page 10)

Federal Bureau of Investigation, has said: "It can reasonably be estimated that \$20 billion annually is the cost of crime in this country. That represents a cost of \$495 for each family in the United States; and for every dollar spent on education, \$1.82 goes to crime; for every dollar donated to churches, \$10 goes to crime."

Crime is outstripping population rate of growth, four to one. Our population has increased 5 per cent since 1950 and crime has jumped 20 per cent.

New LeTourneau "Sno-Buggy"

R. G. LeTourneau, who long ago decided to be "God's businessman" and entered into a partnership

got plenty of time. He was in Hell thirty seconds later."

He did not have plenty of time. Don't let the Devil make a fool out of you. He will try his best. Hell is full of people who waited too long. They fully intended to get saved. And I'm reasonably sure that you have good intentions. You know you ought to be a Christian. You want to go to Heaven. No one but a fool would want to die in his sins. Nevertheless, many do—many like you just put it off one time too many!

God has spoken to you through nature, conscience, the Bible, and through the preacher—and that (Continued on page 12)

with God whereby the Senior Partner would get 90 per cent of the profits, has made another spectacular machine. The latest addition to his inventions is called a "Sno-Buggy." It has tremendously large and wide double tires with exceedingly low pressure, for driving over the snow.

The Sno-Buggy has been tested in the Arctic and has broken all records for carrying heavy loads over the deep snow safely and easily. The new vehicle will have many important uses. One which is uppermost in Mr. LeTourneau's mind is the impetus it will give to the gospel work in far northern areas where missionaries have found it so hard to travel in the past.

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by Evangelist John R. Rice, D.D., Litt. D.

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Dr. Harold S. Laird, pastor of the First Independent Church, Wilmington, Delaware, voiced the opinion of thousands when he wrote, "It is the most comprehensive book on prayer that I have ever read. IT TELLS THE READER WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY ABOUT PRAYER. This is undoubtedly the principal reason why God has been pleased to use it so widely. It has been a peculiar blessing in my own life, because it treats the subject in such a practical way. It has been a real stimulant to me."

Dr. Laird Is Right!

It tells the reader what God has to say about the nature of prayer! Four chapters, including the chapter which appears in this issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, "The Answer to Prayer Is Receiving," are devoted to a Bible explanation of prayer. The other three chapters in this section are, "A Prayer-Hearing God," "Why Pray?" and "Prayer Is Asking."

It tells the reader what God has to say about what to pray for! The five chapters discussing this are entitled, "Praying for Daily Bread," "Asking Bread for Sinners," "Praying for Healing," "Praying for Healing, Continued," and "Pray for Anything and Everything You Want."

It tells the reader what God has to say about how to pray! "Praying in the Will of God," "Definite Praying," "Have Faith in God," and "Just Pray" are the chapters dealing with this.

It tells the reader what God has to say about persistence in prayer! Two lengthy chapters, "Praying Through," and "Why Fast and Pray?," show the importance of long continued supplications and waiting on God until the answer comes.

It tells the reader what God has to say about the limitless possibilities of prayer! Three chapters entitled, "Big Prayers to an Almighty God," "Does God Work Miracles Today?," and "Miracles Today, Continued," show from the Scripture why Christians should expect outstanding things from an omnipotent Lord.

It tells the reader what God has to say about sin and prayer! Three chapters, two of them about "Hindrances to Prayer" and one entitled "The Sin of Prayerlessness," complete this Bible manual of a vital theme.

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God's Last Call

(Continued from page 11)

is not all. He has spoken to you through

The Holy Spirit

The blessed Holy Spirit is in the world today "to reprove the world of sin" (John 16:8).

He is near you at this moment. You cannot see Him with your eyes nor feel Him with your hand, but He is there! He is speaking to you now. "My spirit shall not always strive..." You can sin against the Holy Spirit. You can drive Him away. We read in Acts of men who resisted the Holy Spirit while Stephen was preaching. In Hebrews we read of some who insulted the Holy Spirit. Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit and fell dead in church. Three hours later his wife was stricken for the same sin. Jesus said every sin could be forgiven except the sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit. Jesus said there is no forgiveness for this sin! If, professing Christians are killed for lying to the Holy Ghost, and, if Jesus says there is no forgiveness for those who speak against the Holy Ghost, don't you think you ought to be very careful about resisting this message today? Let me warn you and beg you to heed the wooings of the Holy Ghost. In Hebrews, chapter three, beginning at verse seven,

"Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God... To day; lest any of you be HARDENED through the deceitfulness of sin... TO DAY if ye will hear his voice, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS, as in the provocation. For some, WHEN THEY HAD HEARD, did provoke!"—Heb. 3:7-16.

God is warning. God is repeatedly warning! He is saying again and again through the Spirit: "DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS." The Holy Spirit is saying to you, "Do not boast thyself of tomorrow." Do not say, "tomorrow," "later," or "some other time." Do it now! Today is the day God wants you to be saved.

God speaks through

Special Providence

I believe you will agree with me that God speaks through special providence. You have in some special way been warned, perhaps, through the death of a loved one. Just last week a fine young man was converted at the funeral of his father and told me the "jolt" from his father's sudden death awakened him to the peril of his own soul! I never see a coffin but what God speaks to me about death. We all know without being told that death is inevitable and that one day we are going to die. We know that, but we seem to dodge and hedge and forget that we must meet God. I believe God has spoken to you in this manner.

Not long ago a pastor pointed out a young man who had just got down on his knees beside the bed of his dying mother and promised to meet her in Heaven.

A mother recently said, "When our baby was born, I decided I wanted to be a Christian mother." God spoke to her through the birth of her baby. Perhaps you are a father and God has given you a child; God is saying to you that you should lead that child in the right way—you need God—turn to Him today!

The bullets were flying, and around a soldier buddies were being killed. God spoke to him in a moment of danger. How many young men in a foxhole have said, "Oh, Lord, if you'll let me live, I'll get right!" God was speaking! A man in Florida said to me that, after his car had turned over several times and had come to a complete stop, he was cut in several

places and bleeding badly. He said, "I looked in both directions and saw no one coming. I knew I was going to die! All my sins came up before me, and before I could pray I blacked out. When I came to my senses, I was in a hospital." He said, "God spoke to me through that awful experience, and I'm going to be a different man!"

Just three days before I was wonderfully saved, I was riding down the road on my way to a Sunday baseball game, when a sea gull flew into the open window of our automobile and hit the driver in the head and knocked him unconscious. Just by a miracle of the grace of God, I got the car stopped without a terrible wreck. I sat there and trembled to think of what could have happened. For the first time in many years, I thought seriously about my own soul. I had argued that there was no God, no judgment, no Hell. I had convinced myself that religion was mere superstition. But, face-to-face with the facts, all the infidelity seemed to leave me. God was speaking to me, and I was listening! I could have easily been in Hell, but for the grace of God. And so could you!

During a recent campaign in Canada, a young man left the auditorium during the meeting, got in his car and went straight to Hell in a car wreck! That could have been me—or you! But God has kept your heart beating to this good hour! Though many are in the graveyard younger than you, God has kept His hand of mercy on you! 'God is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish,' but you can exhaust even the patience of God! You can cross the deadline. You can say "no" to God one time too many. Right now, while you are in your right mind, and while God is keeping you alive, is the time for you to come to Christ. It is safe to say that literally thousands of Christian people are praying for you as you read this serious sermon. The writer has a prayer in his heart that no one will put down this sermon with a hard heart. Please do not harden your heart by saying "no" to the best Friend a sinner ever had! Jesus is indeed the sinner's Friend. He has proved His love. He came to "seek and to save," not to destroy! He offers you eternal life! He says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). You can receive Him in less time than it takes to tell it—but the time is running out.

Now, let me put it in plain language so that there will be no mistake. Let me tenderly, but firmly, press this matter. If you do not want to be saved, you can say "no." You can go ahead and live in sin, die in sin, and face God a lost soul. You can do that. Many do. But if you ever expect to be saved—if you have the slightest desire ever to become a Christian, you had better come to Christ while God is speaking to you at this moment.

Finally, let me suggest that God speaks through

Memory

He, no doubt, has spoken to you many times through this wonderful channel. You remember when in church you were almost persuaded. You recall a prayer meeting when your heart was strangely moved. You have not forgotten the verse of Scripture you learned at mother's knee. Perhaps you remember a promise you made. You said you would turn from your sins. Perhaps at the New Year's Eve service you vowed you would do something definite about the most important thing in this life! Remember?

I know a great preacher whose life has blessed many and under whose wonderful ministry thousands have turned to God. He tells how he was put out of the ministry because of his sins. He was well educated but had never been truly saved. He was an orthodox minister and preached the true Gospel, but his sins 'found him out.' He became a bum. He was fired from more than forty jobs because of his sins. One day he was

offered a job to go across the nation and lecture against the Bible! He went up to his room, dug down into his trunk and found his Bible. As he walked the floor and pondered the offer to speak against the very Bible he knew to be the Word of God, he thought of home. He says he remembered his mother as she sat out on the front porch reading her Bible. On the walls of his memory he saw the sweet face and the peace of God that must have flooded her heart. He had never known that joy! He fell down on the floor and cried, "Oh, God, make me the man I've never been!" God saved him! He went back and called the ministers together and told his story and began again "a new man in Christ Jesus."

Maybe you today are far from God. But you can remember days when God spoke to you. The text says in so many words that, if God speaks to you many times and you turn Him down, one day you will be suddenly destroyed and that without remedy! Now, you will admit that God has certainly spoken through nature. He has spoken through conscience. He has spoken through the Holy Bible. He has spoken through the preacher. He has spoken through the Holy Spirit. He has spoken through special providence. And He has spoken through memory. It seems to me that you ought to be alarmed! He will not keep on warning and wooing and waiting for you. God has spoken clearly to your heart. You know that. Now, let me tell you what to do.

First, admit to God that you have sinned against Him and that you are tired of your sin!

Second, tell Him that you here and now accept His Son as your Lord and Saviour!

Third, thank Him for saving you! He said He would; so, BELIEVE THAT HE DOES! TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD. That is what

faith really is! "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8, 9).

We have prayed for all who read this message. We shall continue to pray for all of you who turn now to our wonderful Lord. God bless you as you say an eternal "yes" to the Lord Jesus Christ!

My Decision for Christ

You have read the prize-winning sermon by the blessed evangelist, Jim Mercer. Now let the editor urge you to take Christ as your Saviour today.

God's Spirit will not always strive with man. Today is the day of salvation. If you ever want to be saved, if you hope to keep out of Hell, you dare not delay any longer. I beg you to turn from sin in your heart and run to Jesus for mercy at once.

You can come on the blessed promise of Jesus that "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). He has plainly promised "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The moment you trust Him, depend upon Him, rely on Him, that moment Jesus will forgive your sin and save your soul.

If you will make this decision of eternal destiny now, I beg you, first say yes in your heart to God sincerely, surrender to Him and trust Christ. Put yourself in His hand in simple faith. Then sign the decision form below, copy it in a letter and mail to the editor at once. Thus the matter will be settled in your own heart. God will give you assurance of salvation, and I will write you a letter of instruction and encouragement. Decide, sign, and send today!

Evangelist John R. Rice
Editor, THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read Evangelist Jim Mercer's sermon, "God's Last Call." I confess to God that I am a poor lost sinner who needs saving. I believe that Christ died to save me and wants to save me. So here and now I give Him my heart. I trust Him to forgive my sins and save my soul as He promised to do. This moment I say yes to Jesus. I count Him my Saviour. I confess Him as my Saviour. I write this to claim Him as my Saviour and will set out to live for Him openly the rest of my life.

Signed _____

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